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CONFIDENTIAL.

(8964.)

PART VIII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF THIBET.

Index 8.

July to December 1906.

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ERRATUM.

Page 58, No. 70, lines 4 and 17. For "point 11" and "point 111" read "point II" and "point III."

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Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Thibet.

PART VIII.

[22140] No. 1.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, June* 30, 1906.

I CALLED upon M. Isvolsky this afternoon, and his Excellency inquired of me when I would be prepared to resume our conversations on the subject of Thibet.

I replied that I had reported the points he had raised to you, and that they were now under the consideration of His Majesty's Government. When I received your reply I promised to inform him.

He then inquired whether I had received the exact copy which I had promised to let him have of the Adhesion Convention; and I said that I hoped very soon to receive a copy which I could give to him.

[22275] No. 2.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 231.)
Sir, *Peking, May* 16, 1906.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 89 of the 4th instant on the subject of the Thibetan indemnity, I have the honour to report that I informed Mr. T'ang Shao-yi, in a semi-official note dated the 7th instant, of your concurrence with his proposal that payment should be made in three annual instalments, and of the manner in which you suggested the first payment might be made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

[22379] No. 3.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 2.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy (Foreign Department), dated the 28th June, 1906, regarding Thibet exclusion of Russian officials, &c.).

India Office, June 30, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, June* 28, 1906.

THIBET. Anglo-Russian negotiations.

Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs asked, in the course of conversation with our Ambassador, whether we used the expression Thibet as indicating what he described as "administrative unit," or in a geographical sense. M. Isvolsky's question was, he explained, prompted by fact that certain districts of Thibet are not under Thibetan administration, though within Thibetan boundaries, and had special reference to exclusion of Russian officials. I shall be glad to receive by telegraph, with as little delay as possible, your reply on this point, and also as to how the geographical area which His Majesty's Government mean in speaking of "Thibet" should be defined, in order that a reply to the Russian question may be given by Sir A. Nicolson. I have a copy of the tentative edition of the 1903 Report on Thibet by O'Connor; is any later or more authoritative information in your possession?

In view of inclination expressed by M. Isvolsky to press that, in spiritual interests of Buriats, relations with Dalai Lama, as head of Buddhist religion, and possibly also with Tashi Lama, should be maintained in some form, it is proposed to ask for more precise information as to the manner in which relations have been carried on in the past between the Buriats and Lhassa.

[22140] No. 4.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 120.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 2, 1906.

PLEASE refer to your telegram No. 132 of the 1st instant reporting your interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs when you discussed Thibet. We are waiting for the views of the Government of India on points raised by the Russian Government, and reported by you in your despatches Nos. 362 and 384.

Copies of the Adhesion Convention will be sent to-night by post.

[20633] No. 5.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 301.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 2, 1906.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, for your information and for communication to the Russian Government, copies of the Convention signed on the 27th April last between the British and Chinese Governments,* providing for the adhesion of China to the Lhassa Convention of the 7th September, 1904.

The Government of India are being consulted by telegraph in regard to the points raised by M. Isvolsky in his negotiations with you respecting Thibet, as reported in your despatches Nos. 362 and 384 of the 12th and 20th June, and as soon as a reply is received from them a further communication will be addressed to you on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[21313] No. 6.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 2, 1906.

I LAID before the Secretary of State your letters of the 22nd and 26th ultimo in regard to the proposed interview between Chang, the late Chinese Commissioner, and

* See Part VII, Inclosure 1 in No. 132.

the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, on the subject of the mission of the former to the trade marts in Thibet.

Sir E. Grey observes that permission has been given to the Foreign Secretary to discuss trade questions with Chang, but not to commit His Majesty's Government to any settlement.

In view of the undertaking given by the Thibetan Government in Articles I and II of the Lhassa Convention of 1904, Sir E. Grey presumes that in any formal discussions which may be entered upon for amendments to Trade Mart Regulations, or for the establishment of fresh marts, care will be taken that a duly authorized Thibetan Representative is made a party to any arrangement which may eventually be arrived at; otherwise the Agreement would almost certainly be repudiated hereafter by the Thibetan authorities, if they considered it to their interests to do so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[23051] No. 7.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 5th instant, regarding Chang's Mission to Thibet.

India Office, July 7, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, July* 5, 1906.

MISSION of Chang to Thibet for the purpose of making trade arrangements. My telegram of the 22nd ultimo.

As it is probable that Thibetan Government, should they think it to their interest to do so, will hereafter repudiate Agreement, unless duly authorized Thibetan Representative is made a party to any arrangement regarding matters covered by the Lhassa Convention which may be arrived at, care must be taken in any formal discussion to secure the presence of Thibetan Representative, and in any preliminary discussions with Chang these considerations must be borne in mind.

[23380] No. 8.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, July* 9, 1906.

HAVING no information about the reported Russian expedition to Thibet, mentioned in your telegram No. 124 of the 4th instant, I inquired privately of the Minister of Foreign Affairs whether he had any.

M. Isvolsky has now informed me that Captain Kozlov, who organized the former expedition, is believed to be now in Russia, and that the Russian Government have no knowledge of the preparation at Urga of any similar enterprise.

[23380] No. 9.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 11, 1906.

ON the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, telegrams were addressed to His Majesty's Representatives at St. Petersburgh and Peking, inquiring whether they had any information as to the truth of the report that Captain Kozloff is about to start for Thibet at the head of a large expedition.

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a telegram which has been received in reply from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh,* from which it appears that nothing is known by the Russian Government of the reported expedition.

A copy of Mr. Carnegie's reply will be forwarded as soon as received.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[23691] No. 10.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 12.)

(No. 135.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Peking, July* 12, 1906.

I HAVE no information on the matter mentioned in your telegram No. 121.

Should I ascertain anything I will report at once.

[23847] No. 11.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 150.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, July* 13, 1906.

MY telegram No. 144. Rumoured Russian expedition to Thibet.

I was assured to-day by M. Isvolsky that there had been no preparations made at Urga, and that until Great Britain and Russia were agreed on such matters he personally would not allow any expedition to take place.

[23848] No. 12.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 151.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, July* 13, 1906.

DALAI LAMA.

I was informed privately this morning by M. Isvolsky that he was of opinion, after having investigated the circumstances connected with the Dalai Lama, that his return to Thibet was contrary to the interests of both Governments. He said that it was the Chinese Government which desired his return to that country, and he hinted that Great Britain and Russia might come to some arrangement as regards the future of that personage.

[23863] No. 13.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received July* 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 11th July, relative to Thibetan affairs.

India Office, July 13, 1906.

* No. 8

Inclosure in No. 13.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, July* 11, 1906.

MY two secret telegrams of the 28th June: (1) The limits of Thibet; (2) Thibet Adhesion Convention. When may I expect replies?

[23913] No. 14.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 14.)

IN continuation of correspondence ending with this Office letter of the 13th July, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 13th ultimo, relative to Thibetan affairs.

India Office, July 14, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *July* 13, 1906.

YOUR telegram of the 28th June. Negotiations with Russia as to Thibet.

1. Ratification of the Chinese Adhesion Convention, and question of its communication to the Governments of Japan and Russia. We have no objection to offer, provided a clear understanding is arrived at as to the attitude which Russia will adopt as regards maintenance of relations with Thibet.

2. Boundaries of Thibet. We regard as included in the term "Thibet" the whole geographical area known as Thibet which is bounded on the north by the Kuen Luen mountains, and extends northward and eastward to districts in the vicinity of Tsaidam, which are under direct administration of Chinese, and the provinces of China proper.

So far as conditions in the northern parts—which for the greater part of the year are uninhabited, except by wandering gold-seekers and hunters—admit of the exercise of any jurisdiction, the whole tract, as defined above, is within the plenary and autonomous jurisdiction of the Thibet authorities. With regard to information of later date than O'Connor's Report of 1903, it was stated recently by the Chinese Minister at Sining, in connection with transport for the Dalai Lama, that Western Thaiji and Upper Tsaidam lie in Thibet territory. The latter district is also shown on Chinese atlas as outside the charge of Sining and subject to control from Lhassa. Comte Lesdani and Captain Layard, who have recently travelled on the northern frontier of Thibet, are being asked for information on the subject. If we can obtain further information we will communicate it.

As regards the use by M. Isvolsky of the term "administrative unit," we would remark that if the term signifies that Thibet is one of the ordinary provinces of China we are unable, having regard to history and existing facts, to admit such a contention. In our view Thibet is a feudatory State under suzerainty to China, possessing wide autonomous powers, together with power to make Treaties in respect of frontiers, mutual trade, and similar matters with coterminous States.

We are of opinion that deputation to Thibet of Russian Representatives should not in any circumstances be permitted. Distinction between political and religious matters in a State like Thibet cannot be drawn, and, if such a Representative were admitted, all the troubles which it was one of the main designs of the recent Mission to avert would recur. We have no wish to prevent the visits of *bonâ fide* Buriat pilgrims to the

Holy Places in Thibet in accordance with established practice; but we fail to see that the mere fact that these visits take place constitutes any reason for the establishment of relations between Russia and Thibet. Russia's position in respect of Thibet differs from that of India in that, whilst India and Thibet are coterminous, over 1,000 miles of desert and inhospitable country lie between Russia and the Holy Places. In the event of interference with Buriat pilgrims Russia's proper course would be to address the Government of China.

[23950] No. 15.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, July* 15, 1906.

AS the delay in resuming our discussions on Thibet may, I fear, be misinterpreted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, might I say, at his weekly reception on Wednesday next, that I am prepared to discuss certain of the points which he has raised? I could deprecate geographical missions for the present, and I could give explanations relative to point No. 2 in my instructions if you would inform me of your views; and I might inquire of him further details as to the form of relations that previously existed between Lamas and Buriats.

I might endeavour to discover more precisely the views of the Russian Government with regard to the Dalai Lama, and point out that though the presence of this personage in Thibet would be undesirable for the present, we could not, without infringing stipulations to abstain from interference in Thibetan internal affairs, decide definitely upon his future.

I make these suggestions with a view to keeping our conversations gently proceeding.

The Government were defeated yesterday in the Council of the Empire on a vote of credit, and it would seem, consequently, as if they would shortly have to resign; but it is probable that M. Isvolsky would nevertheless retain office.

[24069] No. 16.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 238.)
Sir, *Peking, May* 19, 1906.

AS reported in my despatch No. 231 of the 16th instant, I communicated to Mr. T'ang Shao-Yi the concurrence of His Majesty's Government with his proposal that payment of the Thibetan indemnity should be made in three annual instalments.

I now have the honour to inclose a translation of a letter which I received on the 17th May from the Wai-wu Pu, informing me that the Shanghae Taotai had been instructed to remit the first instalment to Calcutta by telegraphic transfer through the Hong Kong and Shanghae Bank.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Wai-wu Pu to Mr. Carnegie.

Peking, Kuang Hsü, 32nd year, 4th moon, 24th day
Sir, (*May* 17, 1906).

ON the 7th May you addressed a letter to his Excellency T'ang Shao-Yi, informing him that you had received a reply from His Majesty's Foreign Office on the subject of the Thibetan indemnity, to the effect that there was no objection to the payment of the Thibetan indemnity in three instalments, and that the first would be accepted from the Shape either by cheque given to the Agent at Gyangtze or by cheque to the Indian Government on the Hong Kong and Shanghae Bank.

This Board at once wrote to the Board of Revenue, informing them that the amount of the first instalment was 833,333 rupees, equivalent to rather more than

410,000 taels, and requesting that the Shanghae Taotai might be instructed to convert the sum provided for the payment of the first instalment into rupees and transmit it telegraphically through the Hong Kong and Shanghae Bank to his Excellency Chan Yin T'ang, High Commissioner for the Investigation of Thibetan Affairs, now at Calcutta, to be handed to the Shape for delivery to the Indian Government.

A reply has now been received from the Board of Revenue, stating that a telegram was sent to the Shanghae Taotai on the 10th May to take the action desired in regard to the first instalment of the indemnity.

This Board is telegraphing to his Excellency Chang to deliver the remittance to the Indian Government on its arrival, and in the meanwhile has the honour to send this letter for your information.

We avail, &c.
(Cards of Na T'ung, &c.)

[23913] No. 17.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 145.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 16, 1906.

THE following telegram, which has been received from Government of India, is repeated for your information and guidance with reference to the question of the boundaries of Thibet:—

The term "Thibet" embraces, in our opinion, the whole geographical area known as Thibet, which lies south of the range of Kuenluen Mountains and extends on east and north to tracts near Tsaidam, which fall under the direct administration of the Chinese Government, and the provinces of China proper. The Thibetan authorities exercise plenary and autonomous jurisdiction over the whole tract thus defined, as far as it is possible to exercise any jurisdiction over the northern part, which is uninhabited, save by wandering hunters, for the greater part of the year. To turn to information later than that contained in O'Conor's report of 1903, a statement was recently made by Chinese Minister Sining, in connection with carriage for Dalai Lama, that Western Thaiji and Upper Tsaidam (which latter is shown on Chinese atlas as subject to control from Lhassa and outside charge of Sining), are Thibetan territory.

If Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs wishes to convey by the term "Administrative unit" that Thibet forms one of the ordinary provinces of the Chinese Empire, we would remark that, in view of historical and existing facts, such a contention cannot be admitted by the Government of India.

Thibet is, in our opinion, a feudatory state under the suzerainty of China, enjoying large autonomous powers, and power to conclude Treaties regarding mutual trade, frontiers, &c., with co-terminous states.

No deputation of Russian Representatives should, in our view, under any circumstances be allowed to proceed to Thibet.

In such a case as Thibet it is not possible to discriminate between political and religious matters; and all those troubles, the preventing of which was one of the main objects of Colonel Younghusband's mission, would arise from the presence of such a Representative. We have no wish to hinder the visits to holy places in Thibet by *bonâ fide* Buriat pilgrims, as has been the practice in the past, but such visits do not, in our view, render any relations between Russia and Thibet necessary, for the former country is separated from the holy places by over 1,000 miles of desert and inhospitable country, and which is not, like India, on the Thibetan boundary. It appears to us that the proper course to follow would be for us to address the Chinese Government in the event of any interference with Buriat pilgrims.

[23913] No. 18.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 16, 1906.

NEGOTIATIONS for Agreement with Russia respecting Thibet. Please refer to my telegram No. 145 of to-day.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in conversation with M. Poklevsky, of the Russian Embassy, respecting Thibet negotiations, was informed that, before

dispatch of British Mission under Colonel Younghusband to Lhassa, pilgrims had been the only means of negotiation between the Russian Buriats and the Dalai Lama, to whom they conveyed money and presents. The continuance of this system was all the Russian Government desired, and as His Majesty's Government had no intention of appointing an Agent at Lhassa they had no wish to have one there.

In reply to question if His Majesty's Government were opposed to return of Dalai Lama, and if they knew what he was doing or his future plans, the Russian Secretary was informed that His Majesty's Government, while not being opposed to the return of the Dalai Lama, feared that he would create disturbance and unrest if he returned, and that we could have no confidence that he would not a second time ignore the Treaties concluded by us.

We hoped for those reasons that he would not return; nothing of his present movements or his plans was known to His Majesty's Government. The Russian Secretary said, in regard to the question of scientific missions to Thibet, that Russia would not like to be excluded now, as she had in the past done more than other countries in this respect. It was pointed out that, when British Missions were prohibited from exploring in Thibet, the Russian Government could hardly expect His Majesty's Government to agree to Russian Missions doing so, and the Russian Secretary admitted that the task of replying to Associations wishing to send Missions had been rendered easier for the Russian Government by the reply made by the Secretary of State for India in House of Commons that Sven Hedin had been refused permission to enter Thibet from India.

[23950] No. 19.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 16, 1906.

PLEASE see your telegram No. 154 of the 15th instant, relative to your discussions with Russian Government with regard to Thibet.

You will be able to continue discussions on referring to my telegrams Nos. 145 and 146 of the 16th instant.

By the expansion of the last five words of Point II into "disturbed by the intervention of any other Power, such as the establishment of a Protectorate or special Treaty relations," all doubt would be set aside.

This alteration may be made in the text of the draft instructions if you should deem it necessary.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs might be consulted as to whether all Buriats, a large majority of whom we understand to be Chinese subjects, are equally comprised, or whether Buriats, to whose relations with the Dalai Lama he has referred, are only Russian subjects. The area which is geographically known as Thibet must be that to which the negotiations must be held to apply.

[24357] No. 20.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 326. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1906.

IN the course of a recent conversation, M. Poklevsky, of the Russian Embassy in London, informed Sir C. Hardinge that M. Isvolsky was still waiting for information from your Excellency on points which he had raised in regard to Thibet. He was informed, in reply, that if the Russian Government asked His Majesty's Government for information on such a debatable point as the definition of the geographical and administrative frontiers of Thibet, it was impossible to furnish it without reference to the Government of India. His Majesty's Government hoped, however, that they would shortly receive a reply on this point.

M. Poklevsky was then asked what had been the usual means of communication between the Russian Buriats and the Dalai Lama before the dispatch of the British Mission to Lhassa, and what the Russian Government now wanted. He answered that their only means of communication had been by pilgrims, who conveyed money

and presents to the Lama; that the Russian Government only desired the continuance of this system, and had no wish to have an Agent at Lhassa, since His Majesty's Government have no intention of appointing one. He inquired whether His Majesty's Government were opposed to the return of the Dalai Lama to Lhassa, and if they had any information as to what he was doing, or what his plans were.

Sir C. Hardinge replied that, while His Majesty's Government had no objection in principle to the return of the Dalai Lama, they were afraid that if he returned to Lhassa he would create disturbance and unrest, and that, after his action in provoking a war with this country, it was impossible to have any confidence in him, or to feel sure that he would not, for the second time, ignore the Treaties concluded by His Majesty's Government, and provoke another conflict. For these reasons, His Majesty's Government did not at all desire his return, and hoped that it would not take place. As to his present movements and plans they had no information.

M. Poklevsky then turned to the question of scientific missions being sent to Thibet, and remarked that Russia had in the past done more than other countries in this respect, and did not like being now excluded. It was pointed out to him that the Russian Government could hardly expect His Majesty's Government to agree to Russian missions exploring in Thibet, when British missions were prohibited from doing so. He said that the answer given in the House of Commons on the 5th instant respecting Sven Hedin's journey to Thibet (a copy of which inclosed) had made it much easier for the Russian Government to reply to the scientific associations who wished to send missions into Thibet.

He was asked if he knew anything of a report that Captain Kozloff was again organizing an expedition to Thibet, and he said that he had heard that a Geographical Society had wished to send an expedition, but that the Russian Government had altogether discouraged the idea, and that it had been abandoned. As for Captain Kozloff, he knew for a fact that he was in St. Petersburgh on the 19th ultimo.

He then asked what was thought of the question of Mongolia and of Russian action there. Sir C. Hardinge stated frankly that as the result of carefully watching Russian action in Urga, where there is an energetic Consul-General with, he believed, an escort composed of the three arms, it had long been felt that the Russian Government contemplated some action in that region. Although we felt convinced that Russia had now no desire for a policy of adventure, it seemed beyond doubt that there was still a certain party in Russia in favour of a policy of absorption of Mongolia, more especially as Manchuria no longer offered a favourable ground for a forward policy in that direction.

M. Poklevsky emphasized the fact that the Russian Government are very anxious for the maintenance of the *status quo* in Mongolia, and inquired whether His Majesty's Government could agree to the same principle in accordance with the terms of the Japanese Alliance. Sir C. Hardinge expressed his confidence that the *status quo* in Mongolia would be in entire accordance with the views of His Majesty's Government, and that the Japanese Alliance had been expressly made to ensure the maintenance of the *status quo* in Asia. M. Poklevsky said that the Russian Government would probably make a proposal in this sense in the course of the forthcoming negotiations. He mentioned, at the same time, that there were Japanese emissaries in Mongolia encouraging the Chinese authorities to tighten their hold over the Administration, and that such a policy would inevitably end in a conflict with the Mongol Princes.

It was pointed out to the Russian Ambassador, when he called at this Office subsequently, that the Chinese could not be expected to bind themselves not to do what they pleased in their own territory. All that His Majesty's Government could do would be to give diplomatic assistance to get the Chinese Government to recognize the Russian frontier and to abstain from interference with it. In this the Japanese Government might also assist. Count Benckendorff was further told that any proposals which the Russian Government might make in connection with the *status quo* in Mongolia would certainly be considered in a friendly spirit by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Extract from the "Times," July 6, 1906.

Earl Percy (Kensington, S.) asked the Secretary of State for India whether he had refused permission to the eminent Swedish traveller, Dr. Sven Hedin, who was now in India, to enter Thibet; if so, upon what grounds this refusal had been based; whether it was in accordance with the advice of the Government of India; and whether he would consider the advisability, in the interests of friendly relations with the Thibetan Government and people, of encouraging, subject to their consent, the occasional visits of well-qualified travellers to a country enjoying Treaty relations with the British Government?

Mr. Morley.—Dr. Sven Hedin has been refused permission to enter Thibet from British territory. It had been decided for reasons of policy that not even British parties could be allowed to explore Thibet; and what had been refused to British subjects could not be reasonably conceded to foreigners. It is true that the Government of India were in favour of encouraging the exploration of Thibet by qualified travellers. His Majesty's Government, after full consideration, decided otherwise, as they considered it advisable that Thibet should continue in that state of "isolation" —it is a word in inverted commas (hear, hear)—the maintenance of which was stated by Mr. Brodrick in his despatch of the 2nd December, 1904, to have been one of the main objects of His Majesty's late Government in their dealings with Thibet. A subsidiary reason was that there was no ground for thinking that the Thibetan Government—whose consent to explorations is recognized by the noble earl to be necessary—would be more disposed to grant passports now than they were in the summer of 1905, when they refused a request for one. I should add that the decision of His Majesty's Government in no way affects the right of access to the trade marts secured by the Lhassa Convention. I should also like to express the regret with which I was compelled recently to refuse applications from the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society for assistance in the work of exploring Thibet. The claims of scientific explorers obviously stand on a different footing from those of persons who wish to visit Thibet for amusement. Still, even geography must wait upon the requirements of political convenience.

Earl Percy.—May I ask the right honourable gentlemen whether it would be inconsistent with his desire to maintain the isolation of Thibet that the policy which he has announced to the House should, at all events, be modified in the case, not only of British subjects, but also of foreigners, where there is clear evidence that the Thibetan people have no objection whatever to their entrance to the country?

Mr. Morley.—If the noble lord can establish his proposition that there is clear evidence that the Thibetans do not object, I shall be very glad to receive it; and, if I do receive it, I will urge His Majesty's Government to change their policy.

Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.) asked whether China, as the suzerain Power, alone had the right to give or refuse entrance to Thibet?

Mr. Morley.—I do not think I can answer that question.

[24357] No. 21.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 17, 1906.*

IN the course of a recent conversation at this Office relative to the question of the negotiations which are at present proceeding with Russia respecting Thibet, the Russian Ambassador stated that the Russian Government would, he thought, be prepared to agree to a proposal, if made by His Majesty's Government, that no scientific missions organized by or composed of Russian or British subjects, should be allowed to enter Thibet for five years, and that when that time had expired the matter should be further considered.

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to inquire whether the Secretary of State for India agrees in thinking that His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh should be instructed to make such a proposal to the Russian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[24202] No. 22.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1906.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to inform you that Baron Bonde recently called at this Office on behalf of the Swedish Minister, and requested that the Secretary of State for India might be informed that a Chinese passport to enable M. Sven Hedin, who is now in Kashmir, to visit Chinese Turkestan, was sent out to him on the 2nd July. It seemed desirable that the British Resident in Kashmir should be notified of this fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[23847] No. 23.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1906.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 12th instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a further telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh,* relative to the report that preparations had been made for the dispatch of an expedition to Thibet under Captain Kozloff.

I am to add that, from information received from another source, it appears that Captain Kozloff is at present in St. Petersburgh.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[24404] No. 24.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received July* 18.)

Sir, *India Office, July* 17, 1906.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Campbell's letter of the 28th June, forwarding Sir A. Nicolson's reports of his conversations with the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of Thibet.

Mr. Morley agrees with Sir E. Grey that Sir A. Nicolson's suggestion that he should ask the Russian Government how spiritual relations between the Dalai Lama and the Buriats have hitherto been conducted, should be approved. Mr. Morley would further suggest that it should be ascertained whether the relations referred to have been between the Dalai Lama and those Buriats who are Russian subjects, or between the Dalai Lama and the whole body of Buriats, the bulk of whom are understood to be subjects of China.

With regard to the meaning to be attached to the term "Thibet," I am to inclose a copy of telegrams which have passed between this Office and the Government of India on the subject.† Mr. Morley thinks that, for the purposes of the negotiations, the term should be held to include the whole of the geographical area known as Thibet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

* See No. 13.

† See Inclosures in Nos. 3 and 13.

[25518] No. 25.

Question asked in the House of Commons, July 18, 1906.

Sir Henry Cotton,—To ask the Secretary of State for India if he can state when further papers on the Agreement with Thibet will be laid upon the Table.

Answer.

The honourable Member was informed on 23rd May, in reply to a question addressed to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, as to the papers which will be presented as soon as the Convention is ratified. The exchange of ratifications may be expected to take place shortly.

[24494] No. 26.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, July* 18, 1906.

M. ISVOLSKY and I will resume our conversations on Thibet next Friday. On his inquiring whether I would be ready to discuss the question of the Dalai Lama, I informed him of Sir C. Hardinge's conversation with M. Poklevski.

He was desirous, he said, to put an end to all doubts as to the policy of Russia with regard to the Dalai Lama, and suggested, with that object, that Russia and England should come to a mutual arrangement not to take any measures to facilitate his return to Thibet, and leave the Chinese Government to do as they wished respecting that personage.

He will perhaps enlarge on this question at our interview on the 20th instant.

[23848] No. 27.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Carnegie.

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 18, 1906.

PLEASE see the last sentence of Sir Arthur Nicolson's telegram No. 151 of the 13th July relative to the return of the Dalai Lama to Thibet, which has just been repeated to you.

In his telegram No. 90 of the 3rd May Sir E. Satow reported that the Chinese Government did not for the time being mean to allow the Dalai Lama to return to Thibet. Is there any reason to suppose that they have since changed their mind?

[24518] No. 28.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 97.)
Sir, *Stockholm, July* 16, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to report that the King of Sweden has received a long letter from Dr. Sven Hedin, explaining the difficulties which his proposal to enter Thibet from British India has encountered. While acquiescing in the decision of the Indian Government, Dr. Hedin writes that it is a point of honour with him to carry out the task which he has undertaken in the interests of geographical science at the risk of his life, and that he must now endeavour to approach Thibet from Chinese Turkestan unassisted, and without any escort to protect the specie and supplies which he has to transport over an immense distance through a dangerous country.

He submits, for His Majesty's consideration, that the King of Sweden should ask whether it would not be possible, in view of the friendly relations recently established between the Indian Government and the Tashi Lama, that some message should be conveyed to the latter which would in some measure invite his protection.

His Majesty is naturally reluctant, in view of the decision of the Indian Government,

to make any request which might be unwelcome, but feels at the same time that it is difficult not to respond to such an appeal.

After discussing the matter with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I undertook to submit for the consideration of His Majesty's Government whether it might not be possible to have a message conveyed to the Tashi Lama somewhat in the following sense:—

"That it had come to the knowledge of the Indian Government that Dr. Sven Hedin would endeavour to enter Thibet for purposes of scientific exploration from Chinese Turkestan, and that although they had refused to allow him to enter from British India, they had no power to control his movements elsewhere; that under the circumstances, while they could undertake no responsibility, they expressed the hope that, should he enter Thibet, Dr. Hedin would, as a distinguished traveller of blameless antecedents and neutral nationality, be assured of considerate and kindly treatment."

From a letter which I have received from Dr. Hedin I understand that he apprehends that his greatest danger in coming from the North is that he may be taken for a Russian and so may fall under suspicion.

At an audience which I had with His Majesty this morning King Oscar said he was much afraid that Hedin would sacrifice his life in his determination to complete his geographical work. He was therefore anxious to do anything that was possible to save him, but felt he could do no more than submit the suggestion which is embodied in this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

[24598] No. 29.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received July* 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 18th instant, relative to Mr. Chang's mission to the trade marts of Thibet.

India Office, July 19, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *July* 18, 1906.

THIBET. Chang left Simla on the 17th instant for Calcutta where his staff will shortly join him. Steps will be taken to afford him travelling facilities, so soon as the date of his departure for Thibet, viâ Darjiling, is known. He was received by me on the 6th instant. Official questions were not mentioned during interview.

[24494] No. 30.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1906.

THE return of the Dalai Lama to Lhassa. Please refer to your telegrams Nos. 151 and 157 of the 13th and the 18th July respectively.

His Majesty's Government would accept a mutual Agreement not to facilitate the return of the Dalai Lama to Thibet.

Neither Great Britain nor Russia can of course control the action of China, but you should avoid giving any undertaking which might be construed as prohibiting us from requesting the Chinese Government neither to facilitate nor to permit the return of the Dalai Lama to Thibet. Circumstances might arise in which it might be opportune or desirable for His Majesty's Government to do this.

If the information communicated to you by the Russian Government, and reported in your telegram No. 151 of the 13th July, is correct, the Chinese Government must have changed their mind in regard to the Lama's return, and we are inquiring of His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Peking whether there is anv reason to suppose that they have done so.

[24657] No. 31.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received July* 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 28th June, relative to Mr. Chang's Mission to the trade marts of Thibet.

India Office, July 19, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Memorandum of a Conversation between Mr. Chang and the Foreign Secretary, held at the Foreign Office, Simla, on June 25, 1906.

MR. CHANG, accompanied by Mr. Henderson of the Chinese Customs Service and by a Chinese interpreter, called on the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department on the 25th June, 1906.

After some conversation of a conventional character, Mr. Chang announced that he had been appointed a High Commissioner and had received instructions to proceed to Gartok and subsequently to Lhassa to examine into trade conditions. He requested that facilities might be afforded to him in making the journey. Sir Louis Dane mentioned that a telegram had been received from His Majesty's Legation at Peking regarding Mr. Chang's intended movements, and that the facilities therein asked for were in respect of his journey to Lhassa viâ the Chumbi Valley. He added that personally he was glad to hear of his projected visit to Gartok, as Mr. Chang had expressed his desire for mutual co-operation in the development of trade; but that it would be necessary to submit the proposal for the orders of his Excellency the Viceroy before he could arrange for special facilities. It was pointed out that the roads leading from India to Gartok had hitherto been used practically exclusively by native Indian traders; that the passage of a high Chinese official by one of these hill paths across the frontier would be an innovation; and that it would be undesirable that it should form a precedent. Inquiry was then made about the route leading to Gartok viâ Shipki. Mr. Chang was told that for 165 miles from Simla there was a fair track; that for a further distance of about 25 miles nearly up to the British frontier there was nothing beyond a rugged and difficult path; and that from that to the frontier and on to Gartok it was understood that there was no road of any description. The conversation then turned to Gartok and the character of the mart. Sir Louis Dane explained that the place itself was of insignificant size and importance; that ordinarily there were only some twenty habitations at Gar Gunsa, the winter quarters; and that at Gar Yarsa, the summer station, there was only one house, but this number was increased only for a short period in each year on the occasion of the annual fair, which was understood to be the last of a series held at various points in this part of Thibet, including Gyanema, Taklakot, and other places. The actual trade transactions were believed ordinarily to be greater at the other fairs, but that held at Gartok acquired a certain importance as being the last; and the place was, moreover, the official seat of the Garpons, the principal representatives of Thibetan authority in this part. A further reason why the Government of India had a special interest in this part of Thibet was that the Lake Manasrowar was regarded as peculiarly sacred by many millions of Hindus in India.

On hearing of the difficulties of the journey and of the insignificance of Gartok, Mr. Chang indicated that he felt some doubt as to the need for his visiting the place, and that he was disposed to think that it might suffice if he were to report to his Government an account of the place on the authority of the statements made by Sir Louis Dane. He inquired whether information could be furnished to him, and Sir Louis Dane offered to send him copies of Reports on the place submitted by Captain Rawling and Mr. Sherring. It was suggested that if Mr. Chang would indicate the points on which he was specially desirous of being informed, an attempt might be made to furnish him with further details.

Mr. Chang made one or two remarks which, though not quite clear, appeared to show that what he was anxious to avoid was the possibility of any failure to carry out the Treaty obligation of opening the mart. It was explained that the mart had already been opened by Captain Rawling on the occasion of that officer's visit to the place on return from Lhassa. Mr. Chang inquired whether all was well, or whether difficulties had arisen, and declared his desire to take all possible measures to improve trade.

Sir Louis Dane replied that small difficulties had arisen, and that if any matter should require settlement he was sure that Mr. Chang would assist. He suggested that probably the most effective means of furthering trade would be the improvement of the road to Shipki.

Mr. Chang asked if it would be desirable to have a resident Chinese official at Gartok.

Sir Louis replied that the total volume of trade was at present small, and this was distributed over several routes, so that customs arrangements would be very difficult. So far no necessity for a resident Chinese official for trade purposes had been apparent. Some local dues were collected by the Thibetans, and the subject was under inquiry. On the whole, it would probably be best to leave things as they were, at any rate until trade had further developed, as the Government of India were not anxious to create an impression that Western Thibet had been generally thrown open for exploitation.

Reference was then made to a map of India and the adjacent portions of Thibet, and Sir Louis Dane pointed out to Mr. Chang the various principal routes leading from India to Gartok. Mr. Chang and Mr. Henderson then adverted to the question of gold mining. Thok Jalung, which was understood to be a centre of the local industry, was pointed out on the map. But it was explained to Mr. Chang that the desire of the Government of India was to avoid any new attempt to exploit the gold-fields, which were popularly supposed to exist, but regarding which there was no reliable information at present. It was pointed out that a gold rush would introduce into the country a number of people of a most undesirable class, and that their presence would be likely to lead to difficulties which would be most inconvenient both to the British and to the Chinese Government.

The conversation then turned to the subject of Mr. Chang's stay in Simla. Mr. Henderson explained that Mr. Chang was awaiting the arrival in Calcutta of a Chinese staff who were to accompany him to Lhassa ; and Mr. Chang said that if he did not go to Gartok he intended to stay in the neighbourhood of Simla pending their arrival, which would probably be about a month hence. He said that now that the negotiations had been concluded, he, as representing the Chinese Governmont, was anxious to promote trade between the countries by all means in his power, and he several times inquired if Sir Louis Dane could suggest any arrangement with this object. Sir Louis said that the wishes of his Government were similar to those expressed by Mr. Chang, and that he would think over the question, and might have some suggestions to make before Mr. Chang left.

Sir Louis Dane expressed the hope that he would have further opportunities of meeting Mr. Chang during his stay.

The interview then terminated.

(Signed) C. L. S. RUSSELL.
L. W. DANE.

June 25, 1906.

[24727] No. 32.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of two telegrams to the Viceroy, dated the 19th instant, relative to the affairs of Thibet.

India Office, July 20, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, July* 19, 1906.

THIBET. Sir A. Nicolson has been furnished by telegraph, for his information and guidance, with a copy of your telegram of the 13th instant. On the 16th instant the following instructions were sent him. As regards point (2) of the draft instructions he is to say that it is the desire of His Majesty's Government that the Russian Government should recognize that Great Britain has a special interest in seeing that there is no disturbance of the external relations of Thibet by the intervention of any other Power, whether by special Treaty relations, or by establishment of Protectorate. He is also to say that the whole area geographically known as Thibet comes within the scope of these negotiations. As regards the Buriats, whose relations with the Dalai Lama are referred to, he is to inquire whether they comprise subjects of Russia only or all Buriats, the greater part of whom are subjects of China.

In connection with this subject, the Secretary of Russian Embassy, during recent interview with Sir C. Hardinge at Foreign Office, explained that Russian Government merely wished to keep up communication with Dalai Lama on present system, viz., by means of pilgrims who conveyed to him presents and money. The Secretary of the Embassy added that as His Majesty's Government have no intention of establishing an Agent at Lhassa, the Russian Government did not desire to appoint one. Sir C. Hardinge pointed out, with reference to the Dalai Lama's return to Thibet, that this would be undesirable, as likely to give rise to unrest and disturbance, but explained that, in principle, His Majesty's Government had no objection to his return.

In regard to Mongolia, Sir C. Hardinge informed Secretary of Embassy that His Majesty's Government were entirely in accord with views of Russian Government as to the *status quo*, the maintenance of which it was said the Russian Government were very anxious to secure.

Subsequently the Russian Ambassador was told that, if it was the case, as it was said to be, that China was tightening her hold on Mongolia, intervention on part of His Majesty's Government could not go further than endeavour to persuade China to recognize, and not to interfere with, the Russian frontier; and that, while His Majesty's Government would be glad to consider any Russian proposals on this subject in a friendly spirit, it could not be expected that Chinese should enter into any engagements which would preclude their right to do as they pleased in their own territory. Papers on the subject were forwarded by last week's mail. Further papers will follow by mail of 20th instant.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, July* 19, 1906.

SIR E. GREY has been informed by Russian Ambassador that, in his opinion, a proposal by His Majesty's Government to the effect that no scientific missions to Thibet of British or Russian subjects should be sanctioned for space of five years would be agreed to by Russian Government, subject to reconsideration at end of that term. It is proposed to send instructions to Nicolson in this sense.

Nothing is known at Peking about Kozloff's expedition mentioned in demi-official letter from Dane, dated the 7th ultimo, and rumour is denied by Russian Government.

[24881]

No. 34*.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 23.)

(No. 441.)

St. Petersburgh, July 13, 1906.

Sir,

M. ISVOLSKY remarked to me this morning that I had questioned him privately as to the preparations being made at Urga for a Russian expedition to Thibet, and he was now in a position to state positively that no preparations whatever were being made. He had let it be known that no endeavour should be made to organize any such expedition, and that he intended to check any desires on the part of explorers to travel in Thibet. Until the two Governments had come to an understanding in respect to such expeditions they must remain in abeyance, and that I could trust him personally on this point.

I said that I had no doubt whatever of his good faith; and I told him that I believed that the report as to an expedition had appeared in the Indian press.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[24753] No. 33.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, July* 20, 1906.

THIBET.

It was suggested to me to-day by M. Isvolsky that Great Britain and Russia should come to a mutual arrangement not to have direct relations with the Thibetan Government, but to use the Chinese Government as an intermediary, without, of course, interfering in any way with our special arrangements made in regard to trade marts.

He desired in regard to the Dalai Lama that both parties should come to a mutual understanding not to facilitate his return to Thibet.

As to the geographical limits of Thibet, he suggested that we should take those recognized as such by China. The administrative unit idea will, in my opinion, be allowed to drop.

With regard to the relations of the Russian Buriats to their Spiritual Chiefs in Thibet, he would wish them to remain as in the past, but without maintaining an agent at Lhassa.

While agreeing that no scientific missions should be sent for the present, he said he would also submit a proposal on that subject.

In the Agreement which may eventually be drawn up he does not wish that any specific mention should be made of the exclusion of Russian officials from Thibet. An exchange of notes or some other means might satisfactorily settle this question of *amour propre.*

Our conversation was on general lines, but M. Isvolsky will put his ideas in writing and communicate them to me shortly, and I will report fully by the next bag on his definite proposals.

[24754] No. 34.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 21.)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Peking, July* 21, 1906.

IN reply to your telegram No. 131, I have the honour to state that I was yesterday informed by the Wai-wu Pu that the Dalai Lama was now wandering about, and it was hoped that some temple where he could settle down might eventually be found. There was no question of his return to Thibet.

[24882] No. 35.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 23.)

(No. 442. Confidential.)
Sir, *St. Petersburgh, July* 13, 1906.

M. ISVOLSKY mentioned to me, in the course of conversation this morning, that he had been studying the position and the personality of the Dalai Lama, and that, from the reports which had been received from the Russian Consul at Urga, he had come to the conclusion that it would be undesirable, in the interest of both our countries, that this personage should return to Thibet. He thought that he might prove to be an element of danger and of trouble in that country, and perhaps some arrangement might be arrived at by which we could mutually come to an understanding as to the future of the Dalai Lama. He understood that the Chinese Government were desirous that the Dalai Lama should return to Thibet, and he thought that this should be counteracted, and that he would be ready to join in any step which might be useful to that end.

I told M. Isvolsky that I agreed with him that the presence of the Dalai Lama in Thibet was for the present most undesirable, and that I would communicate to you what he had told me, and I was sure that the expression of his views would be appreciated. I was under the impression that the last news as to the movements of the Dalai Lama

were to the effect that he was journeying in the direction of Peking, but my information on the subject was somewhat vague.

M. Isvolsky said that he must ask me to consider what he had said as given in his personal capacity, but that possibly we might revert to it when we resumed our conversations on the general question of Thibet.

I thanked him for his statements, and said that I hoped shortly to be in a position to take up our conversations where we had last left them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[25160] No. 36.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received July* 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 22nd instant, relative to the boundaries of Thibet.

India Office, July 23, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *July* 22, 1906.

BOUNDARIES of Thibet. My telegram of the 13th instant.

Information supplied to us by Captain Layard goes to show that Kuenlun and Nanshan ranges form the northern boundary of Thibet.

Layard has just travelled along the northern foot of these ranges, and was told by Chinese Governors at Sachu and Charghalik that their jurisdiction only extended to the mountain range, beyond which lay Thibet.

[25220] No. 37.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received July* 24.)

WITH reference to Sir E. Barrington's letter of the 17th July, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 21st July, relative to the grant of a Chinese passport to enable Mr. Sven Hedin to visit Chinese Turkestan.

India Office, July 23, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, July* 22, 1906.

AT the instance of Swedish Minister, Sven Hedin has been furnished with a Chinese passport to enable him to travel in Chinese Turkestan. The document was forwarded by mail of the 2nd July. Resident in Kashmir should be informed accordingly.

[25221] No. 38.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 21st July, relative to the affairs of Thibet.

India Office, July 23, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, July* 21, 1906.

THIBET.

My telegram of the 19th instant.

It has been suggested to Sir A. Nicolson by M. Isvolski that Great Britain and Russia should eventually agree not to facilitate the Dalai Lama's return to Thibet, which he understood Chinese Government to favour. Such an agreement would, he suggested, be in the interests of both countries.

On the 19th July Nicolson was instructed that, while an agreement of this nature would be acceptable to His Majesty's Government, he must take care, when discussing the question, not to use terms capable of being construed as precluding a request on our part to Chinese Government not to facilitate or permit return of Lama.

As regards Chinese Government's present views on the matter, His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Peking has been instructed to furnish a report.

[24753] No. 39.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 24, 1906.

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh,* relative to the negotiations with the Russian Government for an Agreement respecting Thibet.

Sir E. Grey proposes to await the receipt of M. Isvolsky's proposals in writing before taking further action in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ERIC BARRINGTON.

[26564] No. 40.

Question asked in the House of Commons, July 26, 1906.

Sir Edward Sassoon,—To ask the Secretary of State for India when he proposes to lay further Papers on Thibet.

Answer.

The only Papers which it is proposed at present to lay on the Table are connected with the Convention with China of the 27th April last as to the Lhassa Convention of 1904. This Convention will be published shortly, as soon as ratifications have been exchanged with the Chinese Government.

* No. 33.

[25591] No. 41.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 27.)

WITH reference to this Office letter of the 25th July, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, an amended copy of the telegram from the Viceroy of the 24th July, relative to an Agreement with Russia regarding expeditions to Thibet.

India Office, July 26, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *July* 24, 1906.

THIBET.

Proposed Agreement with Russian Government for prevention for five years of scientific journeys in Thibet.

We have considered in Council your telegram dated the 19th instant. Russian responsibility under such Agreement could presumably only extend to Russian frontier which is separated from Thibet by wide tract of Chinese territory. While entry into Thibet would be open to any person once in Chinese territory, it would be necessary for us actually to prevent any expeditions from India from coming into Thibet. It is impossible for us to understand how claim to equality of treatment with us in Thibet can be made by Russia, which is not limitrophe with Thibet.

An Agreement on equal terms, in view of geographical and other conditions, would be that, while we abstained from sending expeditions to Thibet, Russia should neither send, nor give her subjects permission to conduct, expeditions, whether with or without the intention of entering Thibet into Mongolia.

Thibet stands in same relation to us as does Mongolia to Russia, and we venture respectfully to suggest that regard for what Russia may or may not do in Thibet, which country she has declared to be in no case included in her policy, should not in any case be allowed to hamper our relations with that country, so long as Russia claims preferential rights in Mongolia and Chinese-Turkestan, and opposes equal rights of British in latter country.

Our position as regards Thibet is indicated by the statement made by Lord Lansdowne to the Russian Ambassador on the 5th October, 1904, to which we would invite attention.

[25893] No. 42.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 260.)

Sir, *Peking, June* 10, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a note which I have received from the Wai-wu Pu, informing me that the first instalment of the Thibetan indemnity has been paid by the Shape to the Indian Treasury, and that he has received a receipt for it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Prince Ch'ing to Mr. Carnegie.

Sir, *Peking, June* 1, 1906.

WITH reference to the Thibetan indemnity, the first instalment of which amounts to 833,333 rupees, equivalent to 410,000 taels odd, and respecting which you wrote to Chang Ta-ch'en on the 7th May stating that payment would be accepted from the Shape through the Hong Kong and Shanghae Bank, the Board, as we have already had the

honour to inform you, communicated with the Board of Revenue and had the funds transmitted by telegraph to Chang Ta-ch'en.

On the 30th May Chang Ta-ch'en informed the Board by telegraph that the Thibetan indemnity, according to a reply received from the Indian Foreign Office, had been paid by the Shape on the 26th May to the Indian Treasury, and that he had received a receipt therefor.

We accordingly have the honour to inform you of this for communication to His Majesty's Government.

[25934] No. 43.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 467.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, July 21, 1906.*

I CALLED by appointment on M. Isvolsky yesterday afternoon, and we resumed our conversations with regard to an arrangement concerning Thibet.

I reminded his Excellency that he had at our last interview expressed some doubts as to the meaning of the phrase that Great Britain had a special interest in seeing that the external relations of Thibet were not disturbed by any other Power. I told him that I was in a position to explain that the word "disturbed" meant the intervention of any other Power, such as the establishment of a Protectorate or special Treaty relations.

M. Isvolsky observed that this explanation undoubtedly rendered the meaning of the phrase perfectly clear, but he said that he should like to recast the whole sentence referring to the question. He observed that the other points I had mentioned, and to which the Russian Government were quite prepared to subscribe fully, in regard to the suzerainty of China, abstention from interference, &c., seemed to him a sufficient safeguard against any Power desiring to establish a Protectorate or special Treaty Regulations. He also repeated the remark he had made on a previous occasion as to the "spiritual" interests of Russia and intimated that he would like some reference to this in any arrangement which might be eventually reached. He did not, however, desire to discuss these matters with me at the present moment, as he would record his ideas in writing and we could examine them at a subsequent occasion. He had, he added, an idea that it would be well if the two Governments mutually agreed to have no direct relations with the Thibetan Government except through the intermediary of the suzerain Power. He said that, of course, he did not intend to suggest any modification of the special Treaty provisions which existed with respect to our intercourse in connection with the trade marts. He said these were the outlines of his views, but he begged me to wait till he had put them into shape and could communicate them in writing. I said that I would await a further communication from him.

I told M. Isvolsky that I wished to make one or two remarks in regard to the question of "spiritual" interests, which he had just mentioned. Since our last meeting I had understood that the relations between the Buriat subjects of Russia and the Lhassa authorities had been limited to offerings of money and presents brought by pilgrims to the Dalai Lama. I did not think that we should object to the continuance of such practices, but of course it must be understood that no agent in any capacity should reside at Lhassa as protector or intermediary of these pilgrims. M. Isvolsky had no objection to offer to this. I added that I presumed that in speaking of Buriats his Excellency had in mind merely the Buriats, subjects of Russia, and not the numerous Buriats who inhabited Mongolia. His Excellency replied in the affirmative.

I then referred to his question as to whether Thibet was to be considered geographically or administratively. I had no doubt, I said, that we ought, in speaking of Thibet, to treat of it as geographically defined, and, roughly speaking, its northern boundaries would be the Kuen Lun range with Upper Tsaidam and Western Thaigi. I said it was difficult to treat of this matter without a map before us, and this we might examine at a later stage of our discussions. His Excellency asked if we considered Kokonor and Kham within Thibet. I told him the Kokonor Lake, to the best of my recollection, was to the north of the Kuen Lun range and that Kham was in Eastern Thibet. When he had first mentioned Kham to me I was under the impression he alluded to Kami to the north of Altyn Tagh. His Excellency said he

had referred to Kham and not Kami; and the former he considered, though perhaps geographically in Thibet, was under Chinese administration. He asked why we should not take Thibet generally as the country considered by the Chinese Government as under that denomination, without endeavouring to define precisely the exact limits and boundaries, which would be a difficult task.

I said that I would submit to you this suggestion.

I said that he had spoken to me as regards scientific missions proceeding to Thibet. He had, doubtless, seen in the papers that my Government had refused permission to Mr. Sven Hedin to enter Thibet, and I could tell him that one or two other explorers had also been prohibited from carrying out their researches in that country. My Government did not consider that it was advisable that such missions should proceed to Thibet, and it was therefore evident that we were not in a position to recognize facilities to others which we had refused to our own people. M. Isvolsky said that he understood our point of view, and stated that he intended to prevent, as far as lay in his power, any Russian explorers from entering Thibet, in any case for the moment. It was an easy matter for the Indian Government to prevent explorers from entering Thibet, as India was coterminous with that country, while Russia was not a neighbour of Thibet, as Mongolia lay between them. Russians might prepare exploring expeditions from Mongolia into Thibet, without the cognizance of the Russian authorities, and it would be exceedingly difficult to prevent this. He presumed His Majesty's Government did not desire to isolate Thibet in perpetuity. In these days it would be impossible to do so.

I replied that it was clear it would not be wise to permit missions to explore Thibet at the present time. Whether later it might be possible to relax the precautions I was unable to say. Perhaps we might come to an arrangement by fixing a term of years during which exploring expeditions should be absolutely forbidden, and on the expiration of that period we might agree that each Government should inform the other of any expedition to which it was proposed to accord permission to enter Thibet for purely scientific purposes. This idea had occurred to me at the moment, and I did not know if it were practical, or if my Government would agree to it.

M. Isvolsky said he would like to think over the whole question of these expeditions, and he would probably communicate to me some suggestions in writing.

His Excellency remarked that I had laid some stress on one point, viz., that His Majesty's Government would not admit the presence in Thibet of any Russian officials in any capacity. He hoped that I did not wish to have this somewhat categorical statement recorded in any arrangement we might eventually sign. It had an air of suspicion about it, which he would not like to see formally recorded. I said we might possibly arrange this matter later by an exchange of notes, or by some other means.

We then approached the question of the Dalai Lama, and M. Isvolsky repeated that he had no desire that that personage should return to Thibet; in fact he should prefer that he should not do so. He was afraid that there were some doubts as to the attitude of the Russian Government towards the Dalai Lama, and he wished to dissipate them entirely, and would be ready to sign any engagement we desired.

I told his Excellency that I had no doubts whatever as to his sincerity, and that we should be willing to come to a mutual arrangement that neither Government should facilitate the return of the Dalai Lama. I thought that we had better leave the question at that point, as if we went further we might be interfering in the internal affairs of Thibet, from which we respectively wished to abstain. His Excellency asked what views the Chinese Government took in respect to the Dalai Lama. I replied that I had no clear information, as the views in Peking seem to vary, but in any case it would be better to leave China out of the question. To this his Excellency agreed.

He said he hoped I would give him a few days to put his views into writing, as he must do it himself, and he was much occupied just at present. I assured him that I had no desire to hasten him in any way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[26426] No. 44.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 2.)

Sir, *India Office, August* 1, 1906.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge the receipt of Sir E. Barrington's letter of the 23rd ultimo, as to the appeal addressed to His Majesty the King of Sweden by Dr. Sven Hedin in respect of his proposed journey of exploration in Thibet.

Mr. Morley entirely concurs in the view of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that it would be impossible to send any message such as is suggested in the despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Stockholm without appearing to encourage the expedition.

Mr. Morley would suggest, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that Sir Rennell Rodd might be instructed to submit the following representations to His Majesty the King of Sweden:—

1. That, although friendly relations have been established with the Tashi Lama of Shigatse, His Majesty's Government can only deal in political matters with the Thibetan Government at Lhassa, and that to approach the Tashi Lama as proposed would be inconsistent with the Treaty relations established with the Thibetan Government at Lhassa.

2. That His Majesty's Government are precluded by their decision, arrived at on grounds of general policy, not to permit British scientific exploration in Thibet, from addressing any request to the Lhassa Government for kindly and considerate treatment of explorers not of British nationality.

3. That the risks of travelling in Thibet are notorious, and that His Majesty's Government can do nothing which would involve them in any responsibility for the consequences of Dr. Hedin's journey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[26556] No. 45.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 3.)

Sir, *India Office, August* 2, 1906.

IN reply to Sir Eric Barrington's letter of the 17th ultimo, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to invite the attention of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the telegram from the Government of India of the 24th ultimo, regarding the Russian Ambassador's suggestion for an agreement prohibiting scientific missions to Thibet by Russian or British subjects for a term of five years, subject to a reconsideration of the question at the end of that period.

Mr. Morley is not affected by the arguments of the Government of India, and concurs in Sir E. Grey's opinion that Sir A. Nicolson should be instructed to make a proposal for such an agreement to the Russian Government.

I am to inclose the draft of a telegram which, subject to Sir E. Grey's concurrence, Mr. Morley proposes to address to the Government of India, informing them of the decision of His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Draft Telegram from Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Secret.)

YOUR telegram of the 24th July: Thibet.

Refusal to consider suggestion thrown out by Russian Ambassador would be inconsistent with general policy of His Majesty's Government towards Thibet, and would not conduce to success of negotiations now proceeding with Russia. Object of these negotiations so far as Thibet is concerned is to embody as far as practicable in form of agreement with Russia principles laid down in Lord Lansdowne's despatch to

which you refer. But that despatch gives no special ground for objecting to missions ostensibly scientific, which it is obviously our policy to prevent. Refusal to consider proposal for agreement mutually to forego such missions will make it still more difficult to object hereafter if Russia sends mission. It must be remembered that reason why His Majesty's Government objected to British explorations was that such explorations would not tend to stability of friendly relations with Lhassa Government or to maintenance of Thibet in state of political isolation.

His Majesty's Government have therefore decided that Nicolson should make the proposal to the Russian Government, but he will be instructed to avoid language committing us to principle that Russia is entitled to claim equality of treatment with us in Thibet.

[27082] No. 46.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a Secret despatch to the Government of India, dated the 13th July, relative to the Sikkim–Thibet frontier.

India Office, August 7, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Secret.)

My Lord, *India Office, July* 13, 1906.

I HAVE considered the Secret letter of your Excellency's Government of the 17th May last, relating to the erection of boundary pillars on the Sikkim–Thibet frontier in the neighbourhood of Giaogong, together with your telegram of the 27th June furnishing certain information asked for in my telegram of the 14th June.

2. Past experience shows that it has not been found necessary for the protection of the Sikkim–Thibet frontier to mark by pillars the boundary laid down in Article I of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890, which follows a clearly-defined natural water-shed. Three pillars were, it is true, erected on the Chumbi border in 1895, but they were shortly after pulled down, and it was not thought expedient to re-erect them. In 1902, on the occasion of Mr. White's survey of the northern frontier consequent upon Thibetan infringements, the orders originally given to that officer to erect pillars were withdrawn before they had been acted upon.

3. The action of your predecessor's Government in these matters seems to me to have been judicious, and you now inform me that no practical inconvenience has been caused by the absence of pillars.

4. I am, therefore, of opinion that so long as the Thibetans observe Clause I of the Lhassa Convention of 1904 by refraining from infringements of the frontier, it is neither necessary nor expedient to raise the question of erecting pillars. Your Excellency is aware that the object of His Majesty's Government in their policy towards Thibet is to avoid all unnecessary causes of controversy with the Lhassa Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MORLEY.

[26556] No. 47.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 366.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1906.

IN the course of a recent conversation at this Office, relative to the question of the negotiations which are at present proceeding with Russia respecting Thibet, the Russian Ambassador stated that his Government would, his Excellency thought, be prepared to agree to a proposal, if made by His Majesty's Government, that no scientific missions

organized by, or composed of, Russian or British subjects, should be allowed to enter Thibet for five years, and that when that time had expired the matter should be further considered.

I request that your Excellency will make this proposal to the Russian Government, but in doing so you should avoid language which might commit His Majesty's Government to the principle that Russia is entitled to claim equality of treatment with Great Britain in Thibet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[26556] No. 48.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1906.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, inclosing the draft of a telegram which Mr. Secretary Morley proposes to address to the Government of India, informing them of the decision of His Majesty's Government to instruct His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to make a proposal to the Russian Government for an Agreement prohibiting scientific missions to Thibet by Russian or British subjects for a term of five years, subject to a reconsideration of the question at the end of that period.

Sir E. Grey concurs in the terms of the draft telegram, and will instruct Sir A. Nicolson to communicate the proposal to the Russian Government accordingly, but to avoid language committing His Majesty's Government to the principle that Russia is entitled to claim equality of treatment with Great Britain in Thibet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GORST.

[27270] No. 49.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Gyantse Diary for the fortnight ending the 23rd June, 1906.

India Office, August 9, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

Diary kept by Lieutenant F. M. Bailey, Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the Week ending June 16, 1906.

(Confidential.)

June 10, 1906.—At the invitation of the Jongpon, I, accompanied by Lieutenant Hogg, went over to watch some Thibetan sports. A tent was pitched for us, and we were given tea, rice, &c. Early in the morning there was a horse race of about 10 miles. All the horses have the Jongpon's seal affixed to them before starting to insure that no horse is changed during the race. These seals are all examined after the race. The sports we witnessed consisted in shooting from horse-back. The rider galloped past a target consisting of a metal disc about 6 inches square hung on a string. As he passed he discharged his matchlock (loaded with a blank charge) at a distance of about 2 feet from the target. If the aim was good the disc was shaken by the discharge. Quickly slinging his gun, he took a bow and arrow out of his girdle, and discharged it at the second target about 50 yards farther on. This consisted of a triangular sack filled with grass about 2 feet long. Other sports, principally archery, were continued till evening.

June 11.—Sports were continued all to-day by the Thibetans.

June 12.—I hear that two Chinese and one Thibetan official left Lhassa on the

10th instant to meet Chang, who is coming from Calcutta to consult with the Amban in Lhassa.

June 13.—No events.

June 14.—No events.

June 15.—I hear that the Meru Gyalwa Depon has received orders from Lhassa to go and meet Chang on his way up from Calcutta. The Depon is now at his country house, near Shigatse. It is the custom for an official to be sent by the Lhassa Government to meet all people of exalted rank when entering the country. On the arrival of the Tashi Lama from India the Lhassa Government signified their displeasure by not sending any one to meet him.

June 16.—The Teling Depon, who commanded the Thibetan troops during the fighting round Gyantse in 1904, has been ordered to go from Tingri, north of Nepal, to Nyagrong, in Eastern Thibet, and is expected to pass through Shigatse in a few days. (See also my Diary for the 6th May, 1906.)

The foregoing Diary is submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, for information.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, *Lieutenant*,
Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse.

Gyantse, June 17, 1906.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Diary kept by Lieutenant F. M. Bailey, Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the Week ending June 23, 1906.

(Confidential.)

June 17, 1906.—The Sechung Shape arrived here this morning and paid me a visit. Nothing of any importance was discussed.

June 18.—I returned the Shape's visit this morning. A trader who accompanied the Shape from Calcutta told me that it was believed that Chang was to go to Gartok to see the trade mart there. On his return from Gartok he was to go to Lhassa.

June 19.—The Shape has not been able to leave to-day owing to insufficiency of transport. He sent an official to give me some presents in return for some I gave him yesterday.

June 20.—The Sechung Shape left this morning.

I received a visit from the Meru Gyalwa Depon. He has been ordered to meet Chang and accompany him to Lhassa. He has asked me to ask Chang by wire when he will arrive in Chumbi, so that he may return to his home if there will be much delay in Chang's arrival.

The Depon was formerly the Jongpon of Daba in Western Thibet, where he had been seven years. He was returning to Lhassa when the Gartok expedition went to Western Thibet, and passed us on the road.

June 21.—The Meru Gyalwa Depon came and watched a game of polo to-day.

I received a letter from the Ti-Rimpoche to-day, saying that the Gyantse Jongpon had written to say that it was proposed to buy land here and build a house on it. The Ti-Rimpoche wrote to say that it was not the custom for the Thibetans to sell land, and he feared that if land was sold to us other Rajahs would demand the same privilege. He asked me not to build a house, but to wait until the matters connected with the trade marts were settled, when, if necessary, the Thibetan Government would itself build a house.

A letter was also received addressed to Mr. White, saying that the Garpons had been asked to explain their conduct in regard to the trader Shadi Lall, and asking him to order Indian traders to go direct to the trade marts, and not to go beyond them to avoid trouble in future.

June 22.—I went to Sakang and met Mr. White.

June 23.—I accompanied Mr. White into Gyantse.

The foregoing Diary is submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, for information.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, *Lieutenant*,
Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse.

Gyantse, June 23, 1906.

[27824] No. 50.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 15.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 9th August, relative to the negotiations with Russia regarding Thibet.

India Office, August 14, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, August* 9, 1906.

THIBET. Your telegram of the 24th ultimo.

It would not be in accord with the general policy of His Majesty's Government towards Thibet to refuse to consider the suggestion advanced by the Russian Ambassador, nor would such a course conduce to the success of the negotiations with Russia now proceeding. So far as Thibet is concerned, the object of these negotiations is to embody as far as practicable the principles set forth in Lord Lansdowne's despatch quoted by you in the form of an Agreement with Russia. That despatch, however, affords no special grounds on which exception could be taken to Missions of an ostensibly scientific character, which it is clearly our policy to prevent. We shall find it still more difficult to object in the future, in the event of the Russian Government sending a Mission, if we now refuse to consider a proposal for agreement mutually to forego such Missions. It must be borne in mind that the considerations which led His Majesty's Government to object to British explorations were that they would neither tend to maintenance of Thibet in a state of political isolation nor to the stability of friendly relations with the Lhassa Government.

In these circumstances His Majesty's Government have decided to instruct Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh that, while he is not to employ language which would commit us to accepting the principle of Russian right to claim in Thibet equality of treatment, he is to make the proposal to the Russian Government for an Agreement that both Powers should refrain from Missions of the kind in question.

[27985] No. 51.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of correspondence relative to the affairs of Thibet.

India Office, August 15, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Secret.)

Sir, *Simla, June* 28, 1906.

WE have the honour to forward herewith copies of the papers regarding the case of a British-Indian merchant, Shadi Lall, who, when attempting to proceed for trade purposes from Ladakh to Gartok in Western Thibet, met with obstruction from the local Thibetans, and was eventually compelled by the Garpon of Gartok to return to Ladakh without having disposed of any of his merchandize.

2. Shadi Lall's venture was made with the knowledge and consent of the Resident in Kashmir, and after the approval of the Government of India had been accorded to

the Resident's suggestion, that a few selected traders should be allowed to proceed to Gartok for the purpose of trade. In spite of the fact that, under Article 2 of the Lhassa Agreement, British subjects have a right to journey from Ladakh to the trade mart at Gartok, and that, under the Yatung Trade Regulations of 1893, which are applicable to the new marts, specific and important privileges are secured to them, the Thibetan authorities whom Shadi Lall encountered not only declined to grant him access to Gartok, but forbade him to dispose of his merchandize, and compelled him to return to Ladakh by the way he had come. The Garpons of Gartok appeared to be primarily responsible for the action taken in the matter. The Resident reported the pecuniary loss sustained by Shadi Lall to amount to 1,354 rupees, and stated that the news of his failure and of the treatment which he had received from the Thibetans would be widely known, and would deter Ladakh merchants from endeavouring to trade with Thibet.

3. On receiving intelligence of this incident, we considered it essential that no time should be lost in bringing to the notice of the Lhassa Government the breach of the provisions of the Treaty which had been committed. We felt no doubt that the behaviour of the Garpons and their subordinates was due to misapprehension, and was not in any way countenanced by the Lhassa Government, since we understand that immediately after the execution of the Treaty, the Lhassa Government informed the local authorities at Gartok of its terms, and instructed them to secure compliance therewith. Further, the Lhassa Government have already shown their willingness to exact fulfilment of the terms of the Treaty with regard to Western Thibet, for when, under our instructions, Mr. White addressed remonstrances to them on the subject of the stoppage of the Gartok Trade Agent's mail, they at once sent orders to Gartok to the effect that no obstructions should be placed in the way of any traders proceeding to that place, and that the Jongpen should receive and forward any letters for the Thibetan Government. We had reason to believe that the attitude of the Thibetan and local Chinese officials at Lhassa was likely to be complaisant as long as the conditions precedent to the restoration of the Chumbi Valley were not fully complied with, and it therefore appeared to us to be desirable to take notice at once of so open an interference with the freedom of trade guaranteed by the Lhassa Convention, of which one of the main objects was to secure such freedom.

4. We accordingly instructed Mr. White to lay the facts of Shadi Lall's case before the Lhassa Government, and point out the grave violation of Treaty engagements which had been involved by the action of the Garpon of Gartok. He was to state that the Government of India felt sure that the Lhassa Government would at once take steps to call the local authorities to account for their disobedience to the orders which had been issued, and would insist on compensation being paid to the victim of their arbitrary conduct.

A copy of the letter which Mr. White dispatched in accordance with these instructions, and of a telegram from the Trade Agent, Gyantse, reporting the reply of the Ti Rimpoche, form inclosures to this despatch. The reply of the Thibetan authorities is, so far as it goes, satisfactory, and we trust that after the visit to the trade mart at Gartok by the Assistant Commissioner of Kulu, we shall have no further reason to complain of the attitude of the Garpons, more especially as Mr. Chang, the Chinese High Commissioner for Trade, who is about to visit Gyantse and Lhassa, has expressed himself to be most anxious to do everything possible to facilitate and improve trade between India and Thibet.

5. We trust that the action which we have taken in the matter will meet with your approval.

We have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.
KITCHENER.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.
H. ERLE RICHARDS.
E. N. BAKER.
C. H. SCOTT.
C. L. TUPPER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Mr. Colvin to Government of India.

Srinagar, February 27, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to invite a reference to paragraph 9 of my letter, dated the 2nd November, 1904, with which I forwarded the trade reports received from my Assistants at Leh and Kashgar for the year 1903–4.

2. I now inclose copy of a letter, dated the 13th February, 1905, from my Assistant at Leh, in which he inquires whether the route from Leh to Gartok is to be considered open to trade, or whether a few selected men may be permitted to use the route as an experiment.

3. I recommend that a few selected men should be allowed to proceed to Gartok during the current year for purposes of trade. My Assistant at Leh could, on their return from Gartok, obtain from them valuable information as to the prospects of trade between Gartok and Ladakh, and as to the condition of the road beyond the Ladakh frontier.

Inclosure 3 in No. 51.

Captain Patterson to Mr. Colvin.

February 14, 1905.

IT was recently announced in the "Pioneer" that Captain Rawling had made arrangements for the opening of a market for trade at Gartok in Western Thibet. I have to-day received a deputation from influential Punjabi traders inquiring whether they are permitted to proceed to Gartok from Leh for purposes of trade. They are sanguine of good results. They maintain that there is a very fair opinion for merchants in Western Thibet, and propose to sell European piece-goods, silks, and miscellaneous articles, and purchase in return wool, pashm, Lhassa tea, and gold. It would appear that the best trade route for Western Thibet is viâ the Simla–Thibet road, but the men whom I have seen to-day are, and have been for a considerable time, engaged in Central Asian trade. They make Leh their head-quarters during the autumn of each year, and consider it, therefore, a favourable place as centre both for trade with Kashgar and with Western Thibet, if the latter is opened. There are, moreover, no great physical difficulties to be overcome. The road from Leh to Gartok is for the country an easy one. In spite of the great height, it is, owing to the scanty snowfall in those regions, open the whole year round. It appears to me a favourable opportunity for opening Western Thibet to our merchants. For the first year, perhaps, the experiment might be confined to a few selected men, who are experienced in the ways and manners of the people, and are accustomed to organizing caravans for work in such inhospitable tracts. If the results are good, improvements could be made in the communications, and every facility offered towards the opening of the country.

2. As it would be necessary to give these men some intimation in advance so as to enable them to make the necessary preparations, I have the honour to request that I may receive early orders as to whether this route is to be considered open to trade, or whether an experiment may be made by a few selected men.

Inclosure 4 in No. 51.

Government of India to Colonel Pears.

Simla, May 1, 1905.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 27th February, 1905, recommending that a few selected men should be allowed to proceed to Gartok during the current year for the purposes of trade.

2. The Government of India approve of your suggestion, and will be glad to receive as full a report as possible on the prospects of trade between Gartok and Ladakh, and the condition of the road beyond the Ladakh frontier.

Inclosure 5 in No. 51.

Extract from Diary kept by Lieutenant Bailey, British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for week ending February 3, 1906.

Gyantse, 3rd February. A trader arrived here from Leh with a letter of recommendation from the British Joint Commissioner. He was very pleased at being able to send a wire to Leh from here.

The foregoing diary, for the week ending on the 3rd February, 1906, is submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department for information.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, *Lieutenant,*
Officiating British Trade Agent.

Gyantse, February 5, 1906.

Inclosure 6 in No. 51.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Pears.

Fort William, March 2, 1906.

I AM directed to forward, for information, an extract from the diary of the British Trade Agent at Gyantse for the week ending the 3rd February, 1906, regarding the arrival at Gyantse of a trader from Leh.*

2. I am to take this opportunity to invite attention to my letter dated the 1st May, 1905, and to inquire when the Government of India may expect to receive the report called for therein as to the prospects of trade between Gartok and Ladakh and the condition of the road beyond the Ladakh frontier.

Inclosure 7 in No. 51.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pears to Government of India.

Camp Poonch, March 23, 1906.

WITH reference to Foreign Department letters dated 1st May, 1905, and 2nd March, 1906, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter, dated the 20th February, 1906, from my assistant for Leh, and of its inclosure, regarding the prospects of trade between Gartok and Ladakh.

2. As regards the condition of the road beyond the Ladakh frontier, my assistant for Leh is being asked to expedite his report on the subject, which will be forwarded receipt.

3. The attitude assumed by the Thibetan authorities seems to preclude any prospect of trade being established, for the present all events, between Leh and Gartok.

Inclosure 8 in No. 51.

Captain Patterson to Lieutenant-Colonel Pears.

Srinagar, February 20, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to invite a reference to your indorsement of the 12th May, forwarding a copy of a letter dated the 1st May, from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, approving of the suggestion that a few selected traders should be allowed to proceed to Gartok, in Western Thibet, for the purposes of trade. Only one trader availed himself of the permission. This was a man named Shadi Lall, an old and experienced merchant on the Leh–Yarkand line. I have now received a full report on the result of his venture. It is certainly very far from being encouraging. He left Ladakh for Gartok in October, and after crossing the

* Inclosure 5.

Thibet frontier, received nothing but obstruction. He arrived within a few marches of Gartok, where he was detained for fifteen days, and had several interviews with the Assistant Governor, who refused to allow him to trade. He sent messages to the Governor, who eventually came out to see him. The Governor also declined to allow him to proceed to Gartok, or to dispose of his merchandize. He also declined to allow him to proceed towards Rudok or in any direction except along the route he had just come. The Champas (nomad inhabitants) had also orders to boycott him. As an instance of this, the merchant reports that the Champas were anxious to purchase grain from him, but were not allowed to do so. The Lapchak Mission from Ladakh to Lhassa happened to be passing, and he sold to their leader 1 maund of grain for 5 rupees. This man at once resold this to the Champas for 8 rupees. Eventually, seeing that all hope of success had disappeared, the merchant returned to Leh. He estimates his losses on the venture at 1,354 rupees. I attach a detailed statement showing how this sum is arrived at.

2. I very much doubt if we can hope for any success in commercial enterprise with Western Thibet—certainly not in the near future. I am also doubtful whether such enterprise is worth the encouragement. Apart from mineral resources, about which very little is known, Western Thibet is probably the poorest inhabited country in the world. It has no cultivation, no forests, no manufactures, no arts, and such primitive trade as exists is carried on chiefly by barter. In the circumstances, I do not think that the refusal of these Champa nomads to trade with India can be regarded very seriously; that is, purely from a commercial point of view, and quite apart from the question of principle involved and of, what I take to be, a breach of one of the terms of the Treaty of Lhassa.

3. I have to-day received a petition from Shadi Lall from Kashgar, forwarded by Mr. Macartney. He asks that the Governor of Gartok may be called on to recompense him for the loss he suffered. I merely mention this, not as an indorsement to such a foolish application, but to show that Shadi Lall's failure and the story of his treatment will be widely known, and that few, if any, merchants will now venture to trade with Western Thibet, certainly not from the Ladakh side.

STATEMENT showing the Loss sustained by L. Shadi Lall, merchants.

Item.	Amount.
	Rupees.
1. Hire of thirty-five horses, at the rate of 10 rupees each horse ..	350
2. ,, twenty-two ,, ,, ,, ..	220
3. Interest on 9,000 rupees, at the rate of 1 per cent.	300
4. Expenses of four servants for three months, at the rate of 7 rupees per month	84
5. Expenses of food, &c., for servants	200
6. Personal expenses of food, &c.	200
Total	1,354

Inclosure 9 in No. 51.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pears to Government of India.

Srinagar, April 18, 1906.

WITH reference to my letter dated the 23rd March, 1906, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter dated the 6th April, 1906, from my assistant at Leh, reporting on the condition of the road between the Ladakh border and Gartok, and giving information about the trader referred to in the diary of the Trade Agent at Gyantse.

Inclosure 10 in No. 51.

Captain Patterson to Captain Barnes.

Srinagar, April 6, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd March, 1906, asking for information as to the state of the road in Thibetan territory beyond the Ladakh frontier. I have no personal knowledge of this road, but from all accounts, there are no great physical difficulties to be encountered between the Ladakh border and Gartok. It lies chiefly over high rolling up-lands averaging in height about 13,000 or 14,000 feet. The road is always used by the Lapchak and Jang Chang Missions, and is considerably easier than the Leh–Yarkand road viâ the Sasser and Karakorum Passes.

2. The trader referred to in the diary of the Trade Agent, Gyantse, for the week ending 3rd February is a member of the Mohammedan family, who always represent the Kashmir Durbar in the Lapchak Mission. He is a man who constantly plies backwards and forwards between Lhassa and Leh.

Inclosure 11 in No. 51.

Government of India to Thakur Jai Chand.

Simla, May 5, 1906.

I AM directed to inform you that the Government of India have received information that the Governor of Gartok recently prevented a British-Indian trader from Ladakh, named Shadi Lall, from proceeding to Gartok and disposing of his merchandize. The Political Officer in Sikkim has been instructed to lay these facts before the Lhassa Government, and to point out to them the grave violation of the terms of the Lhassa Treaty which has been caused by the action of the Governor of Gartok.

2. I am now to request that you will use your influence with the Garpon of Gartok with a view to the removal of the restrictions against British subjects proceeding to Gartok for the purposes of trade.

3. I am also to suggest that you may be able to induce some Lahuli traders to use the route between Lahul and Gartok.

Inclosure 12 in No. 51.

Government of India to Mr. White.

Simla, May 8, 1906.

I AM directed to forward a copy of the letter from the Resident in Cashmere,* reporting that a British-Indian merchant, named Shadi Lall, who attempted to proceed, for trade purposes, from Ladakh to Gartok, met with nothing but obstruction from the Thibetans in the course of his journey, and was eventually compelled by the Gartok authorities to return to Ladakh by the route by which he had come without having disposed of any of his merchandize.

2. I am to request that you will lay the facts of the case before the Lhassa Government, and point out the grave violation of their Treaty engagements which has been involved by the action of the Garpon of Gartok. You should add that the Government of India understand that immediately after the execution of the Treaty of the 7th September, 1904, the Lhassa Government informed the local authorities at Gartok of its terms and instructed them to secure compliance therewith, and that they feel sure that the Lhassa authorities will at once take steps to call the local authorities to account for their disobedience of these orders, and will insist on compensation being paid to the victim of their arbitrary conduct.

* Inclosure 7.

Inclosure 13 in No. 51.

Government of India to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Simla, June* 6, 1906.

MY letter, dated the 8th May, regarding obstruction by Thibetans of British-Indian merchant proceeding from Ladakh to Gartok. If communication not already dispatched to Lhassa Government, please withhold pending further orders. If already dispatched, please telegraph full text of letter.

Inclosure 14 in No. 51.

Extract from a Diary kept by Lieutenant Bailey, Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the week ending May 26, 1906.

May 24, *Gyantse.*—I gave the Jongpon a letter to be forwarded to Lhassa referring to the action of the Garpon in hindering a trader in Western Thibet.

The foregoing diary is submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, for information.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, *Lieutenant,*
Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse.

Gyantse, May 28, 1906.

Inclosure 15 in No. 51.

Government of India to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Simla, June* 18, 1906.

MY telegram of 6th June.

Please telegraph at once full text of letter to Lhassa Government; Bailey apparently handed it to Gyantse Jongpen on 24th May, for transmission.

Addressed Political Officer, Gangtok; repeated Trade Agent, Gyantse.

Inclosure 16 in No. 51.

Lieutenant Bailey to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Gyantse, June* 20, 1906.

YOUR telegram dated the 18th June.

Following is full text of letter to Lhassa Government, handed by me to Jongpon on 24th May, and dated 16th May, 1906, after address and compliments:—

"When I received your letter of the 30th of the 7th month I was much pleased to hear that you had sent instructions to Gartok to the effect that, in accordance with the Treaty signed between British and Thibetan Governments, British traders proceeding to and from the marts were not to be obstructed; but now I regret to inform you that the Garpon has not been acting upon these instructions. Last year, in October, an Indian merchant, named Shadi Lall, started for Gartok, and, after crossing the Thibetan frontier, received nothing but obstruction. He arrived within a few marches of Gartok, when he was detained for fifteen days by the junior Garpon, who refused to allow him to trade. He sent a message to the senior Garpon, who eventually came to see him, but declined to allow him to proceed to Gartok or to dispose of his merchandise; he also declined to allow him to proceed towards Rudok or in any direction except along the route he had just come. The Champas, that is to say, nomadic inhabitants, were ordered to boycott him. As an instance of this, the merchant reports that the Champas were anxious to purchase grain from him, but were not allowed to do so. The Lapchak Mission from Ladakh to Lhassa happened to be passing, and he sold to their leader 1 maund of grain for 5 rupees. This man at once resold this to the Champas for 8 rupees. Eventually, seeing that all hope of success had disappeared, the merchant returned to Leh; he estimates his losses at 1,354 rupees. I have laid the facts of this

case before you in detail, and would point out that the action of the Garpons of Gartok in thus obstructing a trader from India is a grave violation of the Treaty engagement entered into by the Thibetan Government. I am directed by the Government of India to say that they understand that immediately after the execution of the Treaty of the 7th September, 1904, the Lhassa Government informed the local authorities at Gartok of its terms, and instructed them to secure compliance therewith, and that they feel sure that the Lhassa authorities will at once take steps to call the local authorities to account for their disobedience of these orders, and will have them punished, and will insist on compensation being paid to the trader, Shadi Lall, which compensation should be paid through me.

"I trust that your Eminence will consider this matter of grave importance and take such steps as will immediately put a stop to such arbitrary conduct on the part of the Garpons.

"Compliments."

Inclosure 17 in No. 51.

Lieutenant Bailey to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Gyantse, June* 22, 1906.

MY telegram dated the 19th June.

Reply, addressed to White, has been received from Ti Rimpoche to White's letter, dated 16th May, 1906.

After recapitulating White's letter, reply proceeds as follows:—

"The whole of this has been written in a letter from the Shape to the Garpons. When the Garpons' reply has been received I shall write to you again. But in the Treaty it was written that there was to be no hindrance on the road between frontier and Gyantse and between Gartok frontier and Gartok. It was not written that a man might leave trade mart and wander all over the place at will. We do not know to what place the English trader, Shadi Lall, went. In future, please order all Indian traders to go to the trade mart in accordance with Treaty, and if you will order them not to go beyond there will be no differences between us."

Inclosure 18 in No. 51.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Secret.)

My Lord, *India Office, August* 3, 1906.

I HAVE considered the Secret letter of your Excellency's Government in the Foreign Department, dated the 28th June, 1906, reporting the correspondence which has taken place with the Lhassa Government on the subject of the action of the local Thibetan authorities in turning back Shadi Lall, a British-Indian trader proceeding from Leh, with the approval of the Government of India, for purposes of trade, to the mart at Gartok.

2. Article II of the Lhassa Convention gives British subjects free right of access to the mart at Gartok, and puts the Thibetan Government under a further obligation to place no restrictions on the trade by existing routes. It appears from the correspondence which you inclose that the route from Leh to Gartok is not habitually used by traders such as Shadi Lall, and that his venture was regarded as an experiment. In these circumstances, while I agree that it was necessary to call the attention of the Lhassa Government to the action of the local authorities, I cannot but consider that the description of that action as "a grave violation of the Treaty engagement entered into by the Thibetan Government" went beyond the needs of the case. It cannot conduce to the friendly relations, which it is our policy to establish, if words of such committal are employed in representations to the Lhassa Government before we are in a position to know whether it will be necessary to carry them to their logical conclusion.

3. I consider that the reply of the Thibetan Government is satisfactory, inasmuch as it seems to show that they have no desire to adopt an unreasonable attitude in the matter, and I approve your proposal to take no further action till the results of the visit of the Assistant Commissioner of Kulu to Gartok, and of Mr. Chang's Mission, on behalf of the Chinese Government to Gyantse and Lhassa, are known.

4. With reference to your letter of the 25th June, 1906, to the Government of the

United Provinces, received with the letter from the Secretary in the Foreign Department of the 28th June, 1906, I approve the decision to postpone, till discussion takes place with the Thibetan Government of revised Trade Regulations under Article III of the Lhassa Convention, any decision on the question of the dues levied in accordance with long-established practice by the Thibetans in connection with the trade between the United Provinces and the adjoining districts of Thibet. Mr. Calvert will, I presume, be instructed to use a proper discretion and moderation in addressing to the Gartok officials the representations which you have directed him to make on the subject.

5. I should add that I desire to be consulted before action that might lead to difficulties is taken by the Government of India in matters affecting policy towards Thibet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN MORLEY.

Inclosure 19 in No. 51.

Government of the United Provinces to Government of India.

Sir, *Naini Tal, May* 8, 1906.

IN reply to Mr. Holland's letter dated the 22nd January, 1906, asking for a further report on the question of trade with Taklakot and Gyanema and the payment of dues levied by the Thibetans in connection therewith, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a Report, dated the 9th March, 1906, by Mr. Sherring on the subject, and to say that it is clear that the payment of the dues should be stopped and that the offer of 5,000 rupees a-year for road-making, suggested in this Government's confidential letter dated the 12th October, 1905, seems the simplest solution. If this be accepted, and if the road be improved, Kharag Singh Pal, whose appointment as Deputy Collector has been sanctioned, could be deputed to the frontier to explain the situation to the Bhotias to facilitate intercourse and to listen to and report on any complaints that may be made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. F. L. WINTER, *Chief Secretary.*

Inclosure 20 in No. 51.

Mr. Sherring to Government of the United Provinces.

Sir, *March* 9, 1906.

WITH reference to your letter dated the 17th February, 1906, and in reply to the letter of the Government of India dated the 22nd January, 1906, inquiring about the difficulties of traders proceeding to Gyantse, I have the honour to say that it is quite correct that for some years past the Thibetan authorities have stopped traders from going there, and traders have, therefore, become accustomed to this state of things. After the Treaty of Lhassa there was a general expectation on both sides of the border that there would be complete and far-reaching changes. At the time of my visit to Thibet last year the Thibetan officials were undoubtedly anticipating changes which would include the abolition of the present trade dues. They admitted the principles of general free trade, free importation of tea, and free ingress to all parts of the country, including Gyantse.

2. Last year, however, there could be no new departure in trade to any excessive degree. Everything was experimental. Bhotia traders, after having been under the Thibetan yoke for centuries, could scarcely be expected to believe in one day, or a few weeks, that things were radically different. I would refer to matters which actually took place. Non-Bhotia traders were sent back by the Barkha Tarjum from Gyanema. I referred the question to the Gartok Viceroys with success. Bhotias accustomed to trade only at Taklakot went to trade at Gyanema. There was again objection on the part of the Thibetan authorities; the Viceroy settled this matter also favourably. For fear of the Thibetan officials, traders took with them very little tea. Before my arrival they sold clandestinely, but after my visit the sales were open. Notwithstanding my visit to Taklakot, the Jongpen of that place put a Bhotia into prison and whipped him for an offence committed in British territory, in which both parties were British subjects. I sent the tahsildar Kharag Singh Pal to Taklakot, who immediately had the men

released, the Jongpen persisting (incorrectly) that he had punished him for making a disturbance in Taklakot. As a matter of fact, the case was one of an unnatural offence and related to British territory.

3. So, although the Thibetan officials have expressed themselves willing to have free trade, free importation of tea, and free access to all parts of the country, including Gyantse, the Bhotia traders have not yet gone to Gyantse, as there has been no time to go since my visit, and also they are not at all sure of what will happen if they do go. Everything is in an experimental stage in the eyes of the traders. The cost of transport of goods to Thibet is so great and the trouble so arduous that traders will naturally run no risks. They will only act on a certainty, and small blame to them.

4. It was for this express purpose—viz., to instil confidence—that I proposed that tahsildar Kharag Singh Pal should be resident across the border for a time every year, so that our traders could look to him in trouble, and as he is a man whom the Thibetans know, they would respect him. The fact is that he is known to traders and Thibetan officials intimately at Taklakot and Gyanema. Western Thibet is a big place, and Thakur Jai Chand, excellent official as he is (I have the greatest regard for him personally), is not known to the Almora traders or the officials of Gyanema and Taklakot to anything like the same degree.

5. I fully understand that the Government of India find the appointment of tahsildar Kharag Singh Pal as a second trade agent inadvisable just now, but I would take this opportunity of pressing most strenuously the importance of not allowing a single point that has been conceded hitherto to lapse. There must be continuity in policy, and there are very few persons capable of carrying on such continuity. Traders are afraid and the Thibetan officials are ignorant. Prospects of the most extensive opening up of the country are within our reach. Free trade, free tea, and free ingress have all been promised, and the traders are only too anxious to avail themselves of the benefits, and the Thibetans are quite willing to concede them; but there must be some one who has the confidence of both parties, is personally known to them, and is thoroughly in touch with all the problems of trade dues, &c., who will gently guide the policy. There can be no question that a European is the most suitable person; witness the extraordinary success of my expedition last year. A similar expedition this year could not but have the best effect. In dealing with ignorant barbarians the personal equation far outweighs all others.

6. There have been no further complaints about traders being stopped from going to Gyantse. But this is scarcely the result desired. The main object is so to increase confidence that traders will willingly take the risk of the journey.

7. The subject of the dues raised in paragraph 5 is an instance in point as our policy is not understood, and hence there is lack of confidence. I regret that I have added very little information to what already exists. I have attempted for years past to specialize on the subject (which is a difficult one), and I would submit, with deference, that hitherto no one has observed the important point to which I have drawn attention in my Report of September last, viz., that the dues are paid to insure a close market. This is a matter to which no allusion is made in any correspondence that I have seen in all previous files, and I submit it is of the most radical importance. The dues and free trade simply cannot exist side by side. If the dues are not abolished, trouble must arise sooner or later. From what I have heard it will arise this year. Certain, if not all, Bhotias are most unwilling to pay. The following question was asked me last year hundreds of times: "If the Treaty of Lhassa abolishes dues, why do we have to pay them?" There can be no question that the Thibetan officials expected last year that they would be abolished, but they were paid, and herein lies the trouble. If they are not payable under the Treaty, why were they paid last year? If they were not abolished last year, what new thing has happened that they should be abolished now? These are the horns of the dilemma. Some dues are paid at the beginning of the season and some at the end. For those paid before my visit much can be said, but 1,000 rupees were paid by the Political Peshkar after my visit.

8. Paragraph 5 asks for explicit information on certain points.

I. Payments made to British officials and transferred by them to the Thibetan authorities.

(*a*.) What are they held to represent?—The view of the British authorities differs from that of the Thibetans. We consider the taxes as pure trade taxes payable for the privilege of trading. The Thibetan view is revealed by the names they give them. They call them land tax, tax on sunshine, tax on the profits of trade, tax against plunder.

The term "land tax" refers to the time when Thibetan sovereignty was acknowledged in what is now British territory: it is still assessed on a land basis.

(*b.*) How are they collected?—In Byans, Chaudans, and Darma they are paid to the Political Peshkar, who is a British official and is responsible for the collection.

(*c.*) What is their amount?—This is a difficult question, as the taxes are paid generally in kind—

	Rupees.
Roughly for Byans	1,000
„ Darma..	130
„ Chaudans	14
Total	1,144

The people of Chaudans further pay 61 rupees after entering Thibet to the Taklakot Jongpen.

(*d.*) To what Thibetan official are they made over?—The Political Peshkar pays the taxes for Byans and Chaudans to the servants of the Taklakot Jongpen, and those for Darma to the servants of the Barkha Tarjum. It is to be noted that the Viceroys at Gartok get a share from the subordinate Thibetan officials of all dues paid. The people of Darma have always been compelled to supply grain for the annual horse races at Gartok, and for the training of the Viceroy's race horses.

9. II and III go together: payments made direct to the Thibetan authorities by traders crossing certain passes leading into Thibet, and at certain marts.

Western Thibet is divided into the territories of the—

(1.) Jongpen of Taklakot,
(2.) „ Daba,
(3.) „ Chuprang,
(4.) „ Rudok,
(5.) Barkha Tarjum

and all dues payable go into the pockets finally of these officials, and they in turn hand over a portion to the Viceroys at Gartok.

10. The amounts are—

(*a.*) *Jongpen of Daba.*—45 rupees from traders using the Untadhura Pass (spoken of as "grazing dues," and only payable by persons who have cattle: almost every trader has cattle; otherwise trade would be impossible). Also a considerable sum from traders going over the Niti Pass. What that sum is it is difficult to say. The Niti traders groan about the exorbitant dues, but it is difficult to fix the exact amount. They cannot be less than 300 rupees in any case. The annoying part of the dues is that they are paid in kind; in other words, traders have to carry from India to Thibet a certain quantity of goods to pay these taxes, and thus so many beasts of burden are utilized without any direct return. Whereas cash (if only lawfully payable) would take less room and the transport animals would be fully available for the trade.

(*b.*) *Jongpen of Chuprang.*—Traders over the Mana Pass in British territory pay. The amounts cannot be definitely stated, but the Mana traders certainly pay less than the Niti traders. The incidence is heavy, as the traders are very few in number.

(*c.*) The Jongpen of Taklakot and the Barkha Tarjum are paid by the Political Peshkar. We are not concerned with the Jongpen of Rudokhere. All traders from Basbahr and other native States have to pay something to Thibetan officials, but often the sum is small.

11.—(1.) *Jongpen of Taklakot.*—The Lipu Lekh Pass is under his control, and also the markets throughout his territory—*e.g.*, Taklakot, Jidikot, Khojarnath, and many others. There are thirty-seven villages in the Taklakot district, and each one is a little market. The Humlis of Nepal pay dues to this Jongpen, and also Nepalese traders using the Tinkar Pass.

(2.) *Jongpen of Daba.*—The following passes are his: Nitu, Untadhura, Shelohel, Hoti, and others; also the following markets: Daba, Khyunglung, Shibchilam, Tvithapuri, Missar, and many others.

(3.) *Jongpen of Chuprang* controls the following passes: Shipki, Mana, and one leading to Kangra district. Chuprang is the principal market.

(4.) *Jongpen of Rudok* controls the trade from Cashmere and Kangra district.

(5.) *Barkha Tarjum.*—Passes: Lankpya Lekh and Darma Pass (Neo Dhura), and markets Gyanema, Chhakana, Barkha, and others.

All these passes and markets lie on routes which can properly be said to lead to the Treaty mart at Gartok, and we can indisputably claim the right of free passage.

12. I trust I have dealt with all the points raised. It is very difficult to give the exact sums due in hard cash, for many small payments are made, but certainly 3,000 rupees would cover them all.

There is a strong local feeling that these payments should be abolished, but, as Rai Saheb Pandit Gobaria very rightly informed his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor recently (as quoted in your letter), if the dues taken in British territory are stopped, there will be an end to trade, and no one would be allowed to cross the border, not even the Bhotias. There can be no question but that the matter is a difficult one: not that it relates to large sums of money: the mere pettiness of the dues (petty from an Imperial and general standpoint) is the most provoking thing about them. The Thibetan officials can use them as a handle to give annoyance to traders. Practically Bhotias only pay, and therefore the dues are a differential tax on them, and they feel them keenly, as the number of traders is comparatively small. But other traders also wish to trade in Thibet, and by the Treaty they will not pay. It is inconceivable that the Thibetan officials will not favour those who pay against those who do not. The dues and free trade cannot stand side by side; and there is every reason to fear a strain on mutual relations this year or very soon, unless there is a solution.

13. It is difficult to say what is the best solution. A subsidy of 5,000 rupees annually for road-making, as suggested by his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, is as good a way as any. It is, of course, novel to the Thibetans, and a thing has only to be new to be suspected by them. Still, it holds out a way of solution. However, nothing but the personal influence of a European official personally known to them and thoroughly conversant with the ins and outs of the trade dues could possibly effect a mutual understanding. The task would be a particularly difficult one, but I think there is a possibility of success if tactfully managed.

14. The necessity for an early settlement must again be pressed. The first dues paid are to the Daba Jongpen; these are paid at the very beginning of the season, and if any official is intrusted with this matter, he must cross the Niti Pass in Garhwal on the 1st June—*i.e.*, start for Thibet about the 12th May without fail. The Niti traders and others pointed this out to me last year. The Barkha Tarjum and the Jongpen of Chuprang are paid next, and the last of all comes the Taklakot Jongpen, who is paid in November or the end of October.

15. There is an indefinable uneasiness amongst the traders of the border due to what they have heard in Calcutta about the adherence of China to the Treaty and the visit of the Tashi Lama and the Lhassan Shape, and they still regard political matters as in an experimental stage. I have asked Bhotias as to how much tea they have bought for Thibet during this cold weather, and the replies have been unsatisfactory. They are anxious to buy, but are very uncertain as to the future. Under these circumstances and those detailed above in regard to dues, tea, and free ingress, I think the only way to secure general harmony and inspire confidence is by means of an expedition on the lines of that of last year, which would visit the principal marts, in charge of a European official who personally knows the leading Bhotias (this is the advantage which assisted me so much last year) and is personally known to the local Thibetan officials, thus utilizing the experiences of last year to their fullest extent. This year, 1906, is the Kumbh fair, when pilgrims visit Kailas from the end of May to the end of September, and the political and ulterior advantages must of necessity be great, therefore, of such an expedition.

16. By this means a direct reference to Lhassa could be obviated, and as the question concerns Western Thibet only, there is a hope that the Gartok Viceroys would settle it. I would suggest (if I may) that the attitude to be adopted should be that the Treaty of Lhassa discountenances the dues; that, although paid last year, there can be no question that they should not have been paid; that they must be immediately stopped; that, in view of our desire to establish friendly relations and not to impose too severe a burden upon the local Thibetan officials, who are bound by the Treaty to improve the roads, we are willing to make an allowance for the repairs to communica-

tions of 5,000 rupees yearly, which sum should be distributed according to the orders of the Viceroys, direct payments, however, not being made to the Viceroys (who would keep the whole for themselves), but to the different officials concerned, a certain portion going to the Viceroys. I think the Viceroys would settle the matter themselves as a local one, for they would know that if they referred it to Lhassa, the Lhassan officials would claim their share. The Jongpens, of course, would do nothing without orders from the Gartok Viceroys. If the Viceroys refused to settle the matter without a reference to Lhassa, we should tell them that they could refer it if they wished to, but we could not allow the dues to be paid in any event, and that it was entirely optional with them to take the 5,000 rupees annual subsidy or not. There could be no loss of prestige to the Indian Government; in fact, the attitude of firmness would enhance our prestige, while the tender of money would appeal to the cupidity of the barbarian; nor would the trade be stopped, for the officer in charge would quickly tour to the different marts with his small armed police escort, and see personally that trade was not interfered with. Our largest trade is with Taklakot, where the dues are paid at the *end* of the season, and so trade there could not possibly suffer. The difficulty would be at Daba, where the dues are paid as a *preliminary* to trade. Finally, the officer in charge would not attempt to pose as an Envoy Plenipotentiary of his Government and bind the Government of India, but would simply be what he was last year; and if the same official went as last year, namely, myself, they would be perfectly familiar with his status.

Inclosure 21 in No. 51.

Government of India to Government of the United Provinces.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Simla, June* 25, 1906.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 8th May, 1906, submitting a further report by Mr. C. A. Sherring on the question of trade with Tahlakot and Gyanema, and the payment of the dues levied by the Thibetans in connection therewith.

2. The United Provinces Government are of opinion that the payment of the dues should be stopped, and that, as previously suggested, the local Thibetan officials should be offered a sum of 5,000 rupees a-year as compensation, which could be utilized by them in the construction of roads, which, under Article V of the Lhassa Convention of 1904, they are bound to keep in repair. If this suggestion is accepted, it is proposed that Deputy Collector Kharag Singh Pal should be deputed to the frontier to explain the situation to the Bhotia traders, to facilitate intercourse, and to listen to and report on any complaints that may be made.

3. Mr. Sherring's Report confirms the opinion previously held that the dues paid to the Thibetans are of three kinds, namely—

(1.) Payments made to British officials and transferred by them to the Thibetan authorities;

(2.) Payments made direct to the Thibetan authorities by traders crossing certain passes into Thibet; and

(3.) Dues payable by certain traders direct to the Thibetan authorities at certain marts.

Under the terms of the Lhassa Treaty, the Government of India apparently have a right to refuse payment of the dues under heads (1) and (2) for the future, but it is doubtful whether they can insist that the demand for the dues under the third head should cease, except as regards the trade mart at Gartok, if any such dues are collected there. Even though it may be claimed that the wording of Article II of the Treaty gives British subjects a right to trade at other places than the three recognized trade marts in Thibet, it is not certain that the Government of India would be justified in demanding, under the Article referred to, that the existing restrictions, in the form of local collection of dues which have been in force for years past at such marts, should now be abolished. Assuming, however, that they have a right to order the stoppage of payments under heads (1) and (2), the next question for consideration is whether it would be beneficial to trade if unqualified orders were issued at once for the stoppage of these payments. In existing circumstances the issue of such orders would probably have a prejudicial effect on trade in the near future. Mr. Sherring states in paragraph 12 of his Report that if the dues taken in British territory were stopped there

would be an end to trade, and no one would be allowed to cross the border. In the course of time the Lhassa Government might perhaps recognize the rights which exist under the Treaty, and the local authorities would eventually admit British traders without the payment of dues. But, pending a settlement of the question, a number of Bhotias would suffer severely, and the trade would be dealt a severe blow. Further, if the existing taxes were abolished, the local officials would possibly devise means for harassing Indian traders and for extracting unlawful gains from them.

4. In these circumstances the Government of India are not prepared at present to issue orders to stop payment of the dues, and would prefer to defer consideration of this question and of the payment of a sum of 5,000 rupees to the Thibetans until revised Trade Regulations are discussed under Article III of the Lhassa Treaty. In the meanwhile I am to request that, with the permission of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Kharag Singh Pal may be deputed to proceed to Gartok to meet Mr. Calvert, Assistant Commissioner of Kulu, who is now proceeding there from Simla, to report to him in what respect the strict letter of the Treaty is infringed. Mr. Calvert would then represent to the Gartok officials any infraction of the Treaty, and ask them what explanations they can give for the information of the Government of India. This action would maintain our Treaty rights and not allow them to lapse. It would also demonstrate to the local traders that Government are interested in the trade, and at the same time there would be no stoppage of trade such as might possibly result from cessation of payment of the dues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. RUSSELL,
Deputy Secretary to Government of India.

[28215] No. 52.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 18.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 17th August, relative to a report that a residence is being prepared at Lhassa for Mr. Henderson of the Chinese Customs.

India Office, August 18, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *August* 17, 1906.

THIBET.

Political Officer, Sikkim, telegraphs as follows on the 14th instant:—

"Telegram received from our trade agent at Gyantse states that secret agent reports that a house in Lhassa has been prepared for Henderson to occupy."

Information has also been received that Chang, accompanied by Henderson, will reach Chumbi middle of next month.

Henderson is an officer of the Chinese Customs on duty with Chang.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[28721] No. 53.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of paraphrase of telegrams from the Viceroy, dated the 11th August, and to the Viceroy, 14th August, relative to the publication of the Thibet Convention in India.

India Office, August 22, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *August* 11, 1906.

THIBET. We shall be glad to be informed whether the Thibet Convention may be published in India. If there is no objection to this course, should notes exchanged as to employment of persons other than Chinese subjects be published also, or text of Convention only?

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, August* 14, 1906.

THIBET. Text of Thibet Convention has been presented to Parliament. There is no objection to its publication in India, but without notes, which notes were not presented.

[28720] No. 54.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 21st August, relative to Mr. Henderson's deputation to Thibet.

India Office, August 22, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *August* 21, 1906.

THIBET.

My telegram dated the 17th instant.

Private communication received from Henderson, stating that he has been instructed by Sir R. Hart only to go to Gyantse.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[28862] No. 55.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 12th July, relative to Dr. Sven Hedin's proposed journey to Chinese Turkestan and Thibet.

India Office, August 23, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55.

Government of India to Sir F. E. Younghusband.

(Telegraphic.) *Simla, July* 10, 1906.

SVEN HEDIN can proceed in anticipation of receipt of Chinese passport, provided that he does not go beyond Leh. If Swedish Minister or Chinese Government telegraph that passport is being issued, he may then cross Chinese frontier at his own risk, and passport will be sent after him on receipt. He must not cross Thibetan frontier from Kashmir.

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

Agent to Governor-General, Baluchistan, to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Khanai, May* 17, 1906.

ATBA. Dr. Sven Hedin has reached Quetta, and proposed to leave on 18th for Simla.

Inclosure 3 in No. 55.

Resident, Kashmir, to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Srinagar, June* 19, 1906.

DR. SVEN HEDIN has come to see me. Has Government of India any instructions regarding him?

Inclosure 4 in No. 55.

Government of India to Resident, Kashmir.

(Telegraphic.) *Simla, June* 21, 1906.

YOUR telegram 19th June.

Sven Hedin must not be allowed to cross Kashmir frontier into Thibet, but there is no objection to his entering Chinese Turkestan, as he is in possession of Chinese passport.

Inclosure 5 in No. 55.

Resident, Kashmir, to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Srinagar, June* 22, 1906.

YOUR telegram of 21st instant.

Sven Hedin has informed me that he does not possess Chinese passport. Please telegraph further instructions.

Inclosure 6 in No. 55.

Dr. Sven Hedin to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Srinagar, June* 22, 1906.

HAVE sent following telegram to Swedish Minister, London:—

"Please procure Chinese passport for my going to Eastern Turkestan. Send it immediately Resident, Kashmir."

This passport will reach me at Leh or soon after, at any rate before I cross the frontier for Eastern Turkestan.

Inclosure 7 in No. 55.

Government of India to Resident, Kashmir.

(Telegraphic.) *Simla, July* 2, 1906.

YOUR telegram, 22nd June.

Please inform Sven Hedin that, in view of Regulations of Chinese Government, we cannot permit him to cross frontier into Chinese Turkestan without Chinese passport.

[28861] No. 56.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 19th July, relative to Thibet affairs.

India Office, August 23, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Political Agent, Sikkim, to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Gangtok, July* 7, 1906.

WITH reference to Mr. Bailey's diary of the 1st May, 1906, I have the honour to report that the Kunduling Dzasak, who accompanied the Dalai Lama when the latter fled from Lhassa, has been sent by the Dalai Lama to ascertain from the Tashi Lama whether he had asked for and received permission from the Prince of Wales and the Government of India to make himself supreme in Thibet. The Kunduling was informed by the Tashi Lama that all his interviews with the Prince of Wales and the Viceroy had been only of a complimentary nature.

2. I am informed that the Dalai Lama would have returned before, but was not sure of the Tashi Lama's intentions and of his relations with us, and therefore sent the Kunduling to inquire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN C. WHITE,

Political Agent, Sikkim.

[29552] No. 57.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 31.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Gyantsze diary for the three weeks ending the 14th July, 1906.

A copy has been sent to the Director of Military Operations.

India Office, August 30, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 57.

(Confidential.)

Diary kept by Lieutenant F. M. Bailey, Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantsze, for the week ending June 30, 1906.

June 24.—The Agent the Nepal Durbar have stationed here arrived from Lhassa this evening.

June 25.—I accompanied Mr. White to the quarry where stones are being obtained

for the new house. We returned in a boat. The Nepalese Agent, a lieutenant, called on me.

June 26.—I have heard that there is much ill-feeling between the monks of Sera, Drepung, and Gaden, and the Thibetan troops in Lhassa were got ready in anticipation of further developments, but they have now been demobilized. New tents are being made in anticipation of the arrival of the Dalai Lama, but there is no certainty as to when he may be expected in Lhassa.

Much alarm was felt in Lhassa at the rumour that troops were being sent from India to bridge the Brahmaputra at Chaksam. There are a great many Mongolians in Nagchuka who are causing some alarm to the Lhassa Government, who suspect that they have not come for purely commercial purposes.

June 27, *Kangma.*—I accompanied Mr. White here.

June 28, *Kala.*—No events.

June 29, *Thuna.*—No events.

June 30, *Phari.*—No events.

The foregoing diary is submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, for information.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, *Lieutenant,*
Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantsze.

Diary for the week ending July 7, 1906.

July 1, *Chumbi.*—I have come here to take over Lieutenant Campbell's work as Assistant Political Officer.

July 2, *Chumbi.*—No events.

July 3, *Phari.*—No events.

July 4, *Kambu.* (*Hot springs.*)—I spent a month here last year, and received a warm welcome from all the villagers.

July 5, *Changdro.*—This is a famous grazing ground owned by the Changlo Kung, who receives a small sum for each animal allowed to graze there. He is also the owner of the house we occupy at Gyantsze.

July 6, *Drogyong.*—No events.

July 7, *Tatsang.*—To-day I passed an entrenchment thrown up by the Thibetans while the Mission was at Khamba Jong, in anticipation of our moving on Kala from there.

I met Captain Steen here.

The foregoing diary is submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, for information.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, *Lieutenant.*

Diary for the week ending July 14, 1906.

July 8, *Tram.*—No events.

July 9, *Kala.*—We passed a monastery at a height of 15,000 feet, around which was a grove of trees. This is exceptional at that elevation.

July 10, *Samoda.*—To-day we passed forty Chinese soldiers on their way to Chumbi to meet Mr. Chang and escort him to Lhassa.

July 11, *Saugong.*—No events.

July 12, *Gyantsze.*—No events.

July 13, *Gyantsze.*—I was visited by the three officials of Tashilumpo to-day.

July 14, *Gyantsze.*—No events.

The foregoing diary is submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, for information.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, *Lieutenant.*

[30378] No. 58*.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 210.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, September* 7, 1906.

M. ISVOLSKY expressed to me to-day his regret that he had been so overwhelmed with work that he had been unable to prepare his proposed draft regarding Thibet. He asked me whether I had received any information regarding a telegram published in the Russian press this morning emanating from London to the effect that a concession to prolong the Assam railway from Sudia to Rima had been granted by the Thibetan Government. I replied that I was convinced that it was the intention of His Majesty's Government to maintain the *status quo* in Thibet and that I had no information regarding the alleged concession.

[29729] No. 58.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 3.)

(No. 544.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, August* 22, 1906.

M. IZVOLSKY told me to-day that he would very shortly communicate to me, for the consideration of my Government, a draft project of an Agreement on the points which we had been discussing regarding Thibet. His Excellency said that he had based his draft on the proposals which I had communicated to him, and he trusted that his project would meet the views of His Majesty's Government. He explained that the delay which had ensued in putting his proposals on paper had been caused by his other numerous occupations.

I told his Excellency that I should be happy to receive his draft project, and that there had been no desire to press him on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[30378] No. 59.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 281.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1906.

PLEASE refer to your telegram No. 210 of the 7th instant, regarding the reported Concession by Thibet for the prolongation of the Assam Railway.

You should inform M. Isvolsky that no information on this subject has reached His Majesty's Government, who regard the grant of such a Concession as highly improbable.

[31137] No. 60.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received September* 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 11th instant, relative to a rumoured Railway Concession in Thibet.

India Office, September 13, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, September* 11, 1906.

STATEMENT has appeared in press that Concession for railway from Sadiya to Rima has been granted by Thibetan Government, and Russian Government inquire as to its truth.

In order that contradiction may be given on your authority, I should be glad if you would send immediate reply.

[31181] No. 61.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 299)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1906.

REPORTED Concession by Thibet for prolongation of Assam Railway (see my telegram No. 281 of the 10th instant).

Please inform M. Isvolsky that Government of India report that no such Concession has been granted to them, and that they have had no communication on the subject with Thibet.

[32522] No. 62.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 26.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams relative to an invitation to the British Trade Agent at Gyantse to visit Shigatse.

A copy has been sent to the Director of Military Operations.

India Office, September 25, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 11, 1906.

INVITATION to Shigatse for festival on the 18th September has been sent to Trade Agent and Doctor, Gyantse, by Tashi Lama. Until question of acceptance is settled, Lama apparently does not wish this to be known at Lhassa. It seems desirable to refer matter for your opinion, but perhaps if it is thought inexpedient for Trade Agent to go, doctor might attend and could explain that arrangements to be made about Chang's visits required presence of Trade Agent elsewhere. As presents to Tashi Lama, who has expressed desire to have them, O'Connor proposes to bring out motor car and two Newfoundland dogs. If you agree, perhaps instructions may be conveyed to O'Connor accordingly. I see no objection.

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 16, 1906.

THIBET: Visit to Shigatse of Trade Agent at Gyantse.

Telegram has been received from Political Officer, Sikkim, stating that it is desirable if possible to accept the invitation to Shigatse, which was worded clearly and courteously. The festival commences on the 22nd instant. See my telegram of the 11th instant.

Inclosure 3 in No. 62.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

[As amended by telegram to Government of India, September 21.]

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, September* 18, 1906.

THIBET: Your telegram dated the 11th September.

In present circumstances, visit to Shigatse, even for purely ceremonial purposes, either of Doctor or Trade Agent, is considered undesirable by His Majesty's Government. Proposed presents, by which visit to Calcutta of Tashi Lama may be regarded as being wound up, are not objected to. I am informing O'Connor.

[33455] No. 63.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received October* 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Gyantse Diary for the week ending 11th August last.

A copy has been sent to the Director of Military Operations.

India Office, October 3, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Diary kept by Lieutenant F. M. Bailey, Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the week ending August 11, 1906.

(Extract.)

9th August.—A man I had sent to Lhassa returned to-day. He reported as follows :—

The Amban, who is coming to Lhassa from China, was, on arrival at Tachenlu, accompanied by 500 soldiers (the Amban's usual escort is about 50). The Thibetan Government wrote to the Mangam Tachi (an official of equal rank and performing similar duties to the Garpons of Gartok) asking him to request the Amban to leave some of his escort behind, as great hardship would be caused to the peasants whose duty it would be to furnish them with supplies. No answer has yet been received to this letter. On the arrival of Chang in Lhassa, it is proposed to send the Tsarung Shape to bring the Dalai Lama back. The Shape is now ready to start, but the Lhassa authorities have thought it advisable to wait until Chang arrives, and ascertain his views regarding the return of the Lama.

The Amban told the Thibetans to prepare a house for Mr. Henderson to live in on his arrival with Chang. The Thibetans replied that he would not be allowed to come to Lhassa, but the Amban explained that Mr. Henderson was in the Chinese service and ranked as an Amban and must be permitted to come. A large house called "Trumsi Kang" in Lhassa city is now being prepared for him.

[33463] No. 64.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received October* 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 2nd October, relative to Mr. Chang's journey to Thibet.

India Office, October 3, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October* 2, 1906.

THIBET. Mission of Mr. Chang on behalf of Chinese Government.

My telegram of the 21st August. We have been informed by Lieutenant Campbell, Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi, under date the 26th September, that on arrival in the valley Mr. Chang and his party behaved in an overbearing manner, endeavouring to procure supplies without payment and intimidating local Thibetans. Soon after the arrival of the Chinese party at Pi Pi Tang, Lieutenant Campbell called on Mr. Chang in uniform to tender services, but Mr. Chang refused to receive him in a suitable manner; whilst at Yatung, Mr. Henderson broke open and occupied the house in which he formerly lived.

On the 26th September Mr. Chang telegraphed to Government of India, making complaints as to the incivility of the local officer and the want of facilities. A

reassuring reply in suitable terms was returned at once, and instructions were sent to Lieutenant Campbell to do his best to re-establish friendly relations with Chinese party, while continuing to see that payment was made for transport and supplies, and that proper respect was shown to British officers.

The Acting Political Officer, Sikkim, Mr. Bell, who arrived on the 27th September at Chumbi, communicated with Mr. Chang and explained to him the situation, with the result that the latter has now declared his willingness to obtain supplies for Mission through the medium of the Political Officer. Mr. Bell's view of the incident, after fully examining facts, is that Mr. Chang's object, after arriving in the Chumbi Valley district, was to assert Chinese authority and ignore British occupation, but that finding that such a course was not allowed he shifted his ground and lodged a complaint of discourtesy. We may explain that Lieutenant Campbell was selected for the Chumbi appointment on account of his knowledge of Chinese and the high opinion entertained of him by Sir E. Satow, and that he was specially summoned to Simla in July last to make Mr. Chang's acquaintance. So far as we can judge from the facts before us Lieutenant Campbell does not appear to have committed any breach of etiquette.

Our information indicates that the regrettable incident is now closed, and Mr. Bell hopes, when Mr. Chang's health is restored, to be able without delay to resume those cordial relations with the Chinese in Thibet, and with Mr. Chang in particular, which we are anxious to maintain.

We will send by the mail of this week a copy of the correspondence in full.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[33843] No. 65.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 6.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 5th October, relative to Mr. Chang's Mission to Thibet.

India Office, October 6, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October 5*, 1906.

THIBET. It is reported in a telegram from the Political Officer, Sikkim, that orders, absolutely forbidding Henderson to go to Lhassa, were telegraphed by Chinese Government on the 1st October.

[33848] No. 66.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 260.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, October 7*, 1906.

THIBET Agreement.

I received draft Convention from Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day. It contains five Articles, all of which, except Article II, are identical with those proposed by me in accordance with my instructions.

Article II is as follows:—

"In conformity with the recognized principle of the suzerainty of China over Thibet, Great Britain and Russia mutually engage not to treat with Thibet except through the intermediary of the Chinese Government. This engagement does not exclude the direct relations between the British Commercial Agents and the local Thibetan authorities provided for in the Convention of 1904 between Great Britain

and Thibet. It is clearly understood that Buddhists, whether British or Russian subjects, retain the right of having direct relations on religious matters with the Dalai Lama and other representatives of Buddhism in Thibet."

In the above Article there is no allusion to our special interests as regards the foreign relations of Thibet, and it suppresses point 2 in my instructions.

M. Isvolsky also handed me a Memorandum as to the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley, in which it is suggested that it might be well to mention in our Agreement the temporary character of the present occupation of that valley.

M. Isvolsky said he did not expect any observations from me, and I therefore refrained from making any.

[34131] No. 67.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received October* 9.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 6th September, relative to the affairs of Thibet.

India Office, October 8, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 67.

Major Smith to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Nepal, June* 26, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the translation of a news-letter from the Nepalese Representative at Lhassa, together with two Thibetan papers, the inclosures thereof, and said to be copies of correspondence between the Amba at Lhassa and the Thirring Pochhe Lama, sent to me by the Prime Minister of Nepal.

2. His Excellency has asked for the return of the Thibetan papers when done with.

Inclosure 2 in No. 67.

Letter from the Nepalese Representative at Lhassa.

(Translation.)

WITH due respect, I beg to lay before your Highness in the following lines the news that I have heard and been able to gather for your Highness' information.

A report having reached me that the Chinese officer, Tang* Tarin Amba, deputed from Peking to Calcutta by the Chinese Government to carry on negotiation regarding the Anglo-Thibetan dispute, would come to Lhassa to see how matters stood there, I paid a private visit to the Chharong Kazi on Monday, the 15th Jestha, to sound his views on the matter. After exchange of inquiries about health, I asked him to expedite the deputation of Thibetan officials to the Wallang-Chung side frontier to settle the pending disputes there, to which he promised to give his early attention. After this, he inquired of me whether I had any fresh news. I replied that I was not aware of any except a rumour which was to the effect that Tang Tarin Amba would come to Lhassa, but that it was a subject about which he was in a position to know everything in detail. The Kazi said that he had also heard a report that the said Tang Tarin Amba would come to Lhassa accompanied by an English officer who was an employé of the Government of China, stationed at Gnyatong, but so far the Thibetan Government have not received any official intimation on the subject. I inquired whether, in case the Tang Tarin Amba would be coming, the Sejung Kazi would also come back to Lhassa forming one of his party, and how matters were going on that side, and what was the object of the said Amba's proposed visit to Lhassa. The Kazi replied that, as no official communication was received on the subject, he knew not why the said Amba was coming, nor could he make out what was the motive of the Chinese. I expressed

* More often called Chang.

surprise at the ignorance which the Kazi professed about the policy which the Chinese had been following, and said that it was due to want of mutual confidence between China and Thibet that everything was thrown in confusion and could not be finally settled, as either party could not be free from suspicion of the other. The Kazi said that he had not kept any secret from me on the matter and solemnly affirmed that no fact known to him was withheld from me ; that he had simply heard of the report about the said Amba's coming to Lhassa, and was not aware of the why and wherefore of that visit, and that he would beg of me to favour him with advices, should I happen to come to know or hear anything about it. I said that I would gladly do, as I had done in the past, all what I could by way of proffering such advice as would appear to me to be conducive to the welfare of all concerned.

I beg to inclose herein two Thibetan papers* brought to me by Chinese Kharidar, and said to be copies of the Wangsews, addressed by the Amba to the Thirring Pochhe Lama and from the Thirring Pochhe Lama to the Amba. The former is about the visit of the Tang Tarin Amba to Lhassa, and is one written by the Amba at Lhassa on receipt of a telegraphic communication from the said Tang Tarin Amba stating that he has received instruction by wire from the Government of China to proceed to Lhassa to make inquiries regarding the conclusion of the Treaty at Potala between the British Government and Thibet. The other, which is from the Thirring Pochhe Lama, is about the complaints which the Thibetan Government have made against what they considered to be the high-handedness of the British, who were said to have punished by inflicting fines, those men who were sent down by the Thibetan Government towards Phari to purchase rice required for the use of the Chinese at Lhassa, and requesting that the Tang Tarin Amba be written to arrange to finish the business and send back Sejung Kazi as early as possible, adding that if things went on as they were the misunderstanding with the British would rather go on increasing instead of being removed.

Misser Guva was at my place the other day to have a talk with me about a quarrel which had taken place between some of his people and some of our merchant subjects. In this interview, after some talk about the matter, I told him that the other day when I heard from him a report of some 200 or 300 loads of arms and ammunition having been brought down from Russia, I had asked him to inquire if the report was true, and whether now he has done any such thing. He replied that, though it appeared that several loads of arms and ammunition were brought in secretly by night and stored up at Dhunjeo, down the Potala, where such materials were usually kept; yet as none of his men had seen it personally, he could not confidently make any assertion. He also said that of late he, while sitting alone in a solitary place in his garden during the day time, had been hearing loud noise made by what seemed to be the report made by the firing of cannon. He sent out his men to find out what it was, but they returned to say that they saw nothing round about the place. He entertained a suspicion that it was the firing of a cannon from among the lot of arms brought down from Russia which made those reports. As I had myself never heard any such sound, and as the Guva had said that it was heard only from outside the city, I have sent out my men all round to a distance of a day's journey to ascertain what it is.

I have heard from Khani that the Kasyal has issued an order to commence the training of Palki-bearers to carry the Palki of the Potala Lama. No information, however, from any source indicated definitely the early return of the said Lama to Lhassa. According to Misser Guva and others, there is no love lost between the Potala Lama and the Jigundampa Lama of Kharka, and that the former is not at Dhakhore, and nothing definite is known of his whereabouts.

Dated the 19th Jestha, Friday, 1963, corresponding to the 1st June, 1906.

Inclosure 3 in No. 67.

Major Smith to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Nepal, July* 30, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the translation of a news-letter from the Nepalese Representative at Lhassa, sent to me by his Excellency the Prime Minister, for the information of the Government of India.

* Not printed.

Inclosure 4 in No. 67.

Letter from the Nepalese Representative at Lhassa.

(Translation.)

WITH due respect I beg to lay before your Highness in the following lines the news that I have heard and been able to gather here for your Highness' information :—

On Tuesday, the 23rd Jestha, while out airing, I called on the Itu Kazy, and after exchange of inquiries about health, I asked of him what fresh news there was of the Potala Lama and of the Hindustan side. The Kazi replied that, though there were reports current about the early return of the Potala Lama, nothing definite was known of the date of his departure for Lhasa, and the approximate date of his arrival there; that as regards the news of the Hindustan side, the Amba had written to the Thibetan Government informing that Tang Tarin Amba, the Chinese officer who was deputed to Calcutta from Peking, would come up to Lhassa soon, and instructing that arrangements be made for the supply of necessary riding horses and transport animals for his journey, and also that a place be selected and arranged for his lodging at Lhassa; that on receipt of the said communication from the Amba the Thibetan Government issued orders to the various local anthorities concerned to keep the things in readiness, and also sent men to insure that all arrangements were complete, while at Lhassa the Government building known as Tongsigam or Tinke Linka Chhyorai were suggested as suitable for the lodging required. Having said so, the Kazi inquired of me whether or not the places named would not be considered fit for the purpose. I replied that my own opinion in this matter was that it would be better if a good house, situated in a lonely place outside the town of Lhassa, be selected, because, owing to the said Tang Tarin Amba being a stranger to the place and quite ignorant of the ways and manners of the townspeople, any misunderstanding that might arise with him, even though it be of a trifling nature might, on account of his being an officer of high standing, assume a serious aspect. But I added it was for them (Kazis) to decide what was right or proper. The Kazi then said that a letter has been received from Mr. White, the British officer in Sikkim, addressed to the Thirring Pochhe Lama stating that, on the Ladak side when the British people or subjects wanted to go all round the place for trading purposes, they were prohibited from doing so, and so the local Thibetan Jhompons be instructed to withdraw their prohibition, that there was a report of the new coming Assistant Amba having had to arrange for himself on hire from Tarchindo the horses and transport which he required for his journey down to Lhassa, as the people of Kham, through which he was passing, had left the place and gone away elsewhere in a body, and that besides these there were no other news of interest for the time being.

I also paid a visit to the Thirring Pochhe Lama on Thursday, the 25th Jestha, on my way to the temple of Bhagwan. In the interview the said Lama told me that he has received a letter from Mr. White of Sikkim on the subject of trade on the Ladak side, which showed that the British were thinking of sending their traders also at places other than those mentioned in the Treaty made at Potala, and since it was a thing which was not down even in the said Treaty, should the British begin to do a thing like that in such a high-handed manner, troubles might arise. Accordingly, the Amba at Lhassa and Mr. White also have been written to on the subject, begging them to remove any cause which might make things to come to such a pass. We had after that some talk on religious subjects, at the conclusion of which I returned to my residence.

Norbu Chhiring Kharidar told me that he got information from Tangay Kharidar to the effect that the Amba here at Lhassa received a telegram in cypher from the Amba at Silling informing him that a Saheb from the Russian side, who had with him a pass from His Majesty the Emperor of China, ordering that none should obstruct or hinder him in his travels in any part of the Chinese territory or its dependencies was coming with a view to travel on to Lhassa, whereupon the Lhassa Amba at once dispatched a telegram in cypher to Peking through India drawing attention of the Lin Koyeya Yamun that at a time when pressure put by the British was so very great, should any Russian make his appearance here, great confusion or misunderstanding might again arise, and requesting, under the circumstances, to prevent him from proceeding towards Lhassa. I am making further inquiries on this subject, and should I get any further information on the subject, I shall duly report to your Highness.

Anjila says that he heard it from a Chinese named Tinsyahila that in a letter which he had received from Peking, it was stated that a Treaty was going to be concluded between the Chinese and the British Governments at Peking regarding the Anglo–Thibetan dispute, when the British took objection to the words "Gong Ma Dak Pochhenpo," that is to say, "The Supreme Lord, His Majesty the Emperor of China," being used in the Treaty and suggested the substitution of some other high title, that thereupon differences of opinion arose by which both sides had gone to the extremity of preparing for war, when some middlemen intervened, and it was finally decided to let the words "Gong Ma Dak Pochhenpo" remain as it was, by which China was acknowledged to have supreme power over Thibet; that the other contents of the Treaty was that, after payment of the indemnity money by China in three years, the British officers or Englishmen should withdraw from Gyantse, Phari, and Dhumbo and return to their own territory, and that as regards the boundary the line demarcated by Hrin Tarin Amba should hold good; that this Treaty was made in the very presence of His Majesty the Emperor of China. The letter also stated that the Europeans, when they saw military preparation going on in China before their very eyes, are passing remarks to the effect that up till now China was in a state of lethargy from which, she, having had a rude awakening, is devoting heart and soul in the reorganization of her military strength in a grand and systematic manner.

Having received information from some private sources that houses and monasteries were being continually repaired and furnished at Nakchewkha, and that some houses were also being built there, I sent Baman Babu and a Mongrel of Phembo to that place to see how things were going on there. They were instructed to go there under the pretence of being in search of good new horses that might come by that way from Silling. When they return I shall inform your Highness the information which they bring.

The letter which was addressed by your Highness to the Amba here on the subject of the starting of the Chinese Mission from Nepal was sent to me from the Kasyal Office. I forwarded it at once to the Yamun by the hands of my Subadar and the Kharidar of the Yamun to be delivered to the Amba. The said Kharidar says that Chinese officers are now being deputed to go to Kuti to receive and accompany our Kazi, Sardar, &c., belonging to the Mission.

The Chinese are nowadays continually training their soldiers in target practice at a place called Dhupchi.

The Tangay of the Chinese Yamun was at my place on some money matters. In the course of my conversation with him, I inquired of him the reason why the Tang Tarin Amba was coming up to Lhassa from Calcutta. He replied that it appeared to him that the real object of his visiting Lhassa was concerned with the reports that were current before about the Potala Lama's having exchanged letters and Missions with Russia, and that as the British appeared to be very suspicious of Russia in this matter, the said Amba has very probably received instructions from His Majesty the Emperor of China to visit Lhasa and make a thorough enquiry. I then said that when Thibet had in His Majesty, her great supporter, I could not understand what the Potala Lama has done, what were the contents of the letters which he had written and received, and what was the object of the exchange of Missions which necessitated the Tang Tarin Amba to make such an inquiry. Tangay replied that all that they (the Chinese) knew was what was given out as a rumour some time ago of the Potala Lama having been inclined to be friendly with Russia, and though they knew not if he had any secret correspondence with her, it would be made clear when the Tang Tarin Amba comes.

The appearance of the Thirring Pochhe Lama and the Kazis do not appear to be cheerful. It may be that the facts stated in the previous paragraph have something to do with it.

Dated the 1st Ashar, Thursday, 1963, corresponding to the 14th June, 1906.

P.S.—Syaopita Kharidar of the Yamun was at my place to ask for a loan of some money. In the course of the conversation he told me that information has been received that the Tang Tarin Amba would soon pay a visit to Lhassa with a view to make a thorough investigation and put the administration of the country on a sound basis; and it was said that those who, on inquiry, would be found to have acted improperly would have a bad time of it; that, with regard to the Potala Lama, even the high people of Lhassa were entertaining some suspicion of his having come and remained *incognito* in the Nakchewkha district; that nowadays none who went up

towards Nakchewkha were allowed to proceed further up than Reting, and "Rasads" were being raised from the villages lying to the north of Lhassa, and continuously sent towards Nakchewkha, and this, he thought, was responsible for the rise in the price of wheat at Lhassa from 3½ Thibetan mohars to 5½ Thibetan mohars per khal; that he also heard reports that the Potala Lama would fight out his case with the Tang Tarin Amba in connection with the notice issued by the Amba at Lhassa, depriving the said Lama of his rank and position, and about the question that has again cropped up of the Digarcha Lama being made a Raja or Regent in Thibet; that he saw a Wangsew at the Yamun addressed by the Thibetan Government to the Amba at Lhassa on the subject of British traders who had come to the Ladak side, and who, when prevented by the Thibetan authorities from going anywhere they liked, withdrew, saying that, since they had come to do no harm to the Thibetans and had thus been stopped by the Thibetan authorities, they would claim from the Government of Thibet as compensation the amount which they might have got as a profit on the sale of their goods; that in the said Wangsew it was also stated that the British officers were constructing godowns and "kothies" at a place called Chyanglo, in Gyantse, and at various places on the way down to Phari, and that when the Dedupas wanted to buy rice on behalf of the Thibet Government, in accordance with the rules that prevailed before, the British officer residing at the place not only prevented them from doing so, but also fined them 100 rupees (British coin), and so, as there was a mention in the Convention made at Potala of permission for the establishment of a "kothi" each at Gyantse and Ladak only, and the British have acted so high-handedly in direct contravention of the spirit and express meaning of the said Convention also, such acts could not have been done by the wish of high responsible Government of the great British Power, but must have been done by some intermediaries, all of which did not forebode good, and in consequence they (the Thibetan Government) would beg of the Amba at Lhassa to write to the Tang Tarin Amba to cause the British to keep off from such high-handed and improper acts. Syaopita went on to say that, in spite of the very awkward position in which they were placed, the tone of the Wangsew was of a proud and defiant nature, as if they were capable of doing everything if their wishes be not complied with. I inquired as to what it was which made the Thibetans assume such a threatening attitude. He replied that it was because of the short-sighted policy that the Thibetans lately came to grief, and they ought to have understood well that by writing such a Wangsew they would not be benefited in the least; but nothing definite could be known how matters would be ultimately settled, and everything would be made clear when the Potala Lama came.

Norbuchhiring, a man in my secret employ, informed me that there was for a time a talk among the lower-grade people to the effect that formerly the Kazi who went to China from Nepal used to be a scion of the Rana family—*i.e.*, a relative of the Maharaja, but that this time some one outside that family has been deputed to go. No such talk was, however, heard again since the time I had a talk with Thon Lin on the subject.

The same informant also informed me that the Amba summoned at the Yamun on Monday, the 29th Jestha, those Chinese officers who were appointed to go as far as Kuti to receive our Mission to China, and told them that he was informed by the Nepalese Representative here that His Highness the Maharaja of Nepal has deputed a high officer, descended from an ancient noble family, intelligent, wise, high-minded, and learned, as Kazi of the Nepal Mission now going to China, and as an officer possessing such high qualifications has been deputed, the people on the way of the Mission would not in any way be unnecessarily troubled by the Gurkhas; that on previous occasions it appeared that the Chinese officers who accompanied the Mission tyrannized over the people by placing heavy burdens on them, and as the people had lately had to undergo a lot of trouble, he (the Amba) would warn them (the Chinese officers) that, should they give any unnecessary trouble to the people, they would not be let off so easily, such as by dismissal from their posts, but additional punishment which concerned the life and property of the delinquent officer would also be inflicted.

It is said that the said Chinese officers would start for Kutiby the 15th Jestha Sudi.

I heard from the Lochawa of Deva Dharma that the husband of a niece of Tongsa Penlop of Deva Dharma (Bhutan), with a retinue of some sixteen or seventeen men, arrived at Lhassa on the evening of the 29th Jestha, Monday, and has been provided with a lodging at Themsigam House by the Thibetan Government. He has come to visit the sacred places at Lhassa.

I have also heard that there is a bazaar report that the Potala Lama was residing

at a place not very far from here. Neither the Thibetan nor the Chinese officers with whom I had talks did, however, give any inkling to verify this report. I don't know if they withheld the fact from me; and as the men whom I had sent towards Nakchewkha have not yet returned, I am not in a position to give any definite information to your Highness about it. I am making inquiries, and as soon as I hear anything definite, either from my men after their return from Nakchewkha, or from any other source, I shall at once submit a report to your Highness.

There is also a report that the Tang Tarin Amba will be accompanied to Lhassa by Mr. Wilton, who knows Chinese, and who accompanied the British troops to Lhassa the year before the last. The Chinese officers Thong Lin and others, and the Thibetan officer in charge of the Nechang Office, are busy looking for houses suitable for the said Amba's lodging.

Khanila says that he heard it talked in whispers in the Kasyal Office that the Tang Tarin Amba, after his arrival at Lhassa, would proceed towards Nakchewkha on a tour of inspection, and would return again to Lhassa, bringing with him the Potala Lama.

Inclosure 5 in No. 67.

Sub-Deputy Collector Macdonald to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Darjeeling, August* 3, 1906.

WITH reference to your letter, dated the 17th July, 1906, I have the honour to return herewith the two Thibetan papers with the translations, as requested.

Inclosure 6 in No. 67.

Note to the Ti-Rimpoche of Ganden and the Regent of the Dalai Lama.

YOU state that the great Emperor of China has been graciously pleased to bestow you a great favour by paying off the balance of the war indemnity imposed by the Anglo-Thibetan Treaty; that in obedience to the great Amban's order, the Thibetan Minister Sar-jung-nga Tse-ten Wang-chuk (he is generally known as Se-chung Shappe—D. M.) has left Lhassa on the 13th day of the 12th month of last year with a staff of lamas and laymen to make payment of the first instalment; that though nearly four months have since passed, you have had no definite news about their having done any business on their return to Thibet or of any progress having been made as to the payment of the indemnity.

You further state that the duties of the Ka-sha or State Council at Lhassa have enormously increased, and that in consequence you have very little time at your disposal; that in case the Thibetan officers are detained in India any longer they will suffer from fever, as they are unaccustomed to the Indian climate; that the Thibetan subjects all along the route are being put to much inconvenience; and finally, that you cannot place implicit confidence in the foreigners, for which reason you say you are compelled to make this representation. You accordingly request the Resident Amban to forward your Petition at once to the Ambassador, Mr. Tang, in order that he may cause immediate payment of the instalment, thus bringing the matter to an end and thereby expediting the return of the Thibetan officials at once.

At the same time you represent that the Chinese Resident in Thibet obtains supplies of rice for the benefit of the Chinese and Thibetan officers and soldiers; that some authorized persons having gone to Phari and obtained rice and other necessaries for the Government, they made preparation to collect customs according to the existing usage, but that the British officers of Phari inflicted punishment on them, saying that it was not permissible. Besides that, new houses have been built on Ram-bel-thang meadow at Phari, and the earth, wood, and stone appertaining to the Phari fort have been taken out; that it appears to you that a new departure has been made according to one's own fancy; and that if the British officer makes such new departures and does what he likes to any extent, you fear that the friendly intercourse between the British and the Thibetans will not only cease, but the main object in view will be lost, and that it will be a source of alarm. Forasmuch as it is difficult to conceive of such a thing,

you request that Mr. Tang will confer with the Foreign Office in India in order that strict orders may be issued to the British officers stationed at Chumbi, Phari, and Tuna, directing them to refrain from doing similar acts in future.

In conclusion, you request the excellent Amban to communicate the news without fail and to send you the reply. This note is sent on the 7th day of the 4th month of the 32nd year of Emperor Kwangsu's reign.

Inclosure 7 in No. 67.

Memorandum.

ON the 5th day of the 4th month of the 32nd year of Emperor Kwangsu's reign I received a telegraphic communication from the Minister, Mr. Tang, informing me that the Thibetan Treaty was ratified on the 4th instant, and that he has received orders by wire directing him to proceed to Thibet and make inquiries into the State affairs and do all that may be needful.

I, the Chinese Resident at Lhassa, considered the matter carefully. I find that formerly when similar orders were received the Government of Thibet was bound to see that everything was kept ready for the reception of the high officials who visit Thibet, namely, riding horses, mules for transport purposes, and other necessaries. I therefore require of you this time to keep the following necessaries ready beforehand between the Indian frontier and Lhassa, namely, riding horses, mules for transport, and other things, such as carpets, curtains, and canopy required from stage to stage; also grass, firewood, grooms, and servants. Herein fail not. This letter is sent to the Ti-Rimpoche of Ganden for necessary action. He might either pass the necessary orders or select a reliable Thibetan officer according to the existing custom, and depute him to do the work at once with the necessary instructions. The Thibetan officer should leave at once and make the necessary arrangements all along the route, and also arrange a sufficient number of riding horses and mules for transport. When he has got everything ready, it is very important that he should proceed to the frontier and there await the arrival of the official. He must serve him well, and escort him to Lhassa. Again, orders may be issued to all the Jongpons or " district officers " all along the route through the Ka-sha or " State Council at Lhassa " directing them to carry out the wishes of the Government and keep everything ready.

In conclusion, I desire to inform you that I have received no news from the Thibetan Minister Tse-ten Wang-chuk since his arrival in India as to what he has been able to accomplish there. If the Government of Thibet receive any information, I must be informed of all the news. This Memorandum is sent on the 7th day of the 4th month of the 32nd year of Emperor Kwangsu's reign.

Inclosure 8 in No. 67.

Thakur Jai Chand to Government of India.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Gartok, July* 16, 1906.

I HAD the honour of receiving your letter, dated the 29th May, 1906, informing me about the visit of Mr. Calvert, Assistant Commissioner of Kulu, to Gartok for inspecting the present condition of the trade there. I have informed the authorities at Gartok, and orders have been issued to Rudok Jongpon informing him about the arrival of the said Mr. Calvert by that route and instructing him to help Mr. Calvert in every way.

2. The traders from India and the Punjab have all arrived at their respective markets.

3. There is nothing more to report during this week.

Inclosure 9 in No. 67.

Thakur Jai Chand to Government of India.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

Gartok, July 24, 1906.

THERE is nothing worth reporting during this week. Both the Garpons are about to return to Gartok from Kailas.

Inclosure 10 in No. 67.

Thakur Jai Chand to Government of India.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

Gartok, July 31, 1906.

HAVING heard that Mr. Calvert, Assistant Commissioner of Kulu, arrived at Somor in this district on the 25th July, I am starting off to-day to meet him.

The Senior Garpon is expected to return from the Kailas fair to Gartok to-morrow, the 1st August.

The Junior Garpon has gone from Kailas to Taklakot on some private business, and will return to Gartok in about a month's time.

There is nothing else worth reporting.

[33848]

No. 68.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Secret.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 9, 1906.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to transmit to you herewith a copy of a telegram which has been received from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh relative to the proposed Agreement with the Russian Government respecting Thibet.*

I am to request that Sir E. Grey may be furnished with the observations of the Secretary of State for India in regard to the Article which M. Isvolsky proposes to introduce in substitution for point 2 of the proposals which Sir A. Nicolson was instructed to make to the Russian Government.

Sir Edward Grey would also be glad to learn Mr. Morley's views as to the suggestion on the part of M. Isvolsky that it might be well to mention in the Agreement the temporary character of our occupation of the Chumbi Valley.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[34620]

No. 69.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 677.)
Sir,

St. Petersburgh, October 8, 1906.

M. ISVOLSKY called on me yesterday afternoon and said that he desired to hand to me a draft Convention which he had drawn up in regard to Thibet, and also a Memorandum concerning the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley. His Excellency added that he thought that the draft Convention was drawn up in accordance with the spirit of the proposals which I had been instructed to make to him, though perhaps it differed somewhat in the text. M. Isvolsky said that he did not ask me to make any observations on the documents, as no doubt I would wish to consult with His Majesty's Government.

I thereupon put the documents on one side, and his Excellency proceeded to speak on other matters. I have the honour to transmit copies of the documents in question.

I have little doubt that, during the two months which have elapsed since M. Isvolsky and myself last discussed Thibetan affairs, his Excellency has been in consultation with the military and other authorities, and the drafting of Article II shows, I think, evidence of other hands having participated in it. Beyond the clause affecting

* No. 66.

our commercial relations with Thibet the proposed Article places Great Britain and Russia on exactly the same footing in respect to the above-mentioned country. During my early conversations with M. Isvolsky, the latter did not, and indeed could not, demur to the special interests which Great Britain possesses owing to her geographical position. He merely required, on behalf of the Buriats, that some recognition should be inserted in respect to what he termed the "spiritual" interests of Russia, and he wished to recast our proposal to meet that point. It is true that, subsequently, he alluded on one occasion to our both employing the Chinese Government as intermediary in dealings with the Thibetan Government, and he also considered that, if both Great Britain and Russia formally acknowledged the suzerainty of China over Thibet, the question of the establishment of a Protectorate was *ipso facto* excluded. He therefore was of opinion that to specifically mention, as His Majesty's Government proposed, that no Protectorate should be established, was unnecessary.

In Article II, as drafted by M. Isvolsky, the right of having "special Treaty relations" is not only not excluded on the part of Russia, but would be implicitly admitted by the adoption of the phrase "s'engagent à ne traiter avec le Thibet que par l'entremise du Gouvernement Chinois."

Moreover, the scope of the "spiritual" interests of Russia is considerably enlarged by the phraseology of Article II, and it seems to me that a door would be widely opened to continual and direct relations with the Lhassa authorities, probably through the channel of some unofficial Buriat agent, who would not restrict his intercourse to questions appertaining solely to the "terrain religieux."

I told M. Isvolsky some time ago that I understood that the relations between the Buriats and the religious heads in Thibet were limited to offerings of money and presents, and that possibly some means could be found not to check or suppress the flow of these pious contributions.

I venture to submit that it would be advisable if I could be furnished with a counter-draft of Article II, and which would supply me with a basis for further discussion with M. Isvolsky.

His Excellency has not inserted any clause as to scientific missions, but possibly you may be of opinion that it would be more convenient to arrange this question by an exchange of notes, to form an annex to the Convention, and not merge it in an Agreement, which it may be hoped will be of a fairly permanent character. The same observation would apply to the exclusion of Russian officials in any capacity from Thibet; though I would beg leave to remind you of the observations made by M. Isvolsky on this point, and of his assertion that in Russia all persons of any mark or eminence were at least nominally officials, or bore official titles; and that consequently so general a prohibition would in itself permanently exclude innocent scientific explorers.

I trust you will pardon my submitting the above observations to those who are far more competent than myself to criticise and appreciate the proposals now put forward by the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

Draft Convention.

ARTICLE I.

LES deux Hautes Parties Contractantes, reconnaissant les droits suzerains de la Chine sur le Thibet, s'engagent à respecter l'intégrité territoriale du Thibet, et à s'abstenir de toute ingérence ("intervention") dans son administration intérieure.

ARTICLE II.

Se conformant au principe admis de la suzeraineté de la Chine sur le Thibet, la Russie et la Grande-Bretagne s'engagent à ne traiter avec le Thibet que par l'entremise du Gouvernement Chinois. Cet engagement n'exclut pas, toutefois, les rapports directs des agents commerciaux Anglais avec les autorités Thibétaines locales, prévus par la Convention de 1904 entre la Grande-Bretagne et le Thibet. Il est bien entendu

que les Bouddhistes, tant sujets Russes que Britanniques, conservent le droit d'entrer en relations directes sur le terrain religieux avec le Dalaï Lama et les autres représentants du Bouddhisme au Thibet.

ARTICLE III.

Les Gouvernements Britannique et Russe s'engagent chacun pour sa part à ne pas envoyer de Représentants à Lhassa.

ARTICLE IV.

Les deux Hautes Parties s'engagent à ne rechercher ou obtenir, ni pour leur propre compte ni en faveur de leurs sujets, aucunes concessions de chemins de fer, routes, télégraphes, et mines, ou autres droits, au Thibet.

ARTICLE V.

Les deux Gouvernements sont d'accord qu'aucune partie des revenus du Thibet, soit en nature, soit en espèces, ne peut être engagée ou assignée, tant à la Russie et à la Grande-Bretagne qu'à leurs sujets.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Pro-Memoriâ respecting British Occupation of Chumbi Valley.

EN vertu de la Déclaration, promulgée par le Vice-Roi des Indes le 11 Novembre, 1904, conjointement à la ratification de la Convention du 7 Septembre, 1904, l'évacuation de la Vallée de Chumbi par les forces Britanniques se trouve subordonnée à l'exacte observation par le Thibet de la Convention précitée.

D'autre part, la nécessité de maintenir l'intégrité du territoire Thibétain et de s'abstenir de toute ingérence dans les affaires intérieures du pays a été pleinement reconnue au cours des pourparlers entre les Gouvernements Russe et Anglais au sujet du Thibet. Ce principe, en outre, a été explicitement formulé à l'Article II de la Convention entre la Grande-Bretagne et la Chine du 27 Avril, 1906.

Toutefois, la stricte observation par les Thibétains de la Convention de 1904 ne saurait présenter le caractère d'une certitude absolue, et si peu probable que paraisse en lui-même le fait d'une infraction de leur part aux engagements pris, il semblerait nécessaire d'en considérer les conséquences que pourrait impliquer la prolongation *sine die* de l'occupation de la Vallée de Chumbi contrairement au principe admis de l'intégrité du Thibet. Dès lors, il serait peut-être utile de préciser dans l'accord sur la question Thibétaine le caractère temporaire de l'occupation de la Vallée de Chumbi.

[35149] No. 70.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 18.)

Sir, *India Office, October* 17, 1906.

IN reply to Mr. Campbell's letter of the 9th instant, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to submit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the following observations on the Article which M. Isvolsky proposes should be substituted for point 11 in the draft Agreement communicated by His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to the Russian Government.

The Russian Article not only suppresses, as pointed out by Sir A. Nicolson, all allusion to our special interests as regards foreign relations in Thibet; but, by providing that Great Britain, save in respect of local communications under the terms of the Lhassa Convention, shall not treat with Thibet except through the Chinese Government, it places a restriction on the liberty of action of the British Government which is not imposed by the Chinese Adhesion Convention. Neither the Lhassa Convention nor the Adhesion Convention binds the British Government not to deal direct with the Thibetan

Government in the event of the infringement by the latter of the terms of the Lhassa Convention.

The last sentence of the Russian Article, as to religious relations between Buddhists, whether Russian or British subjects, and the Dalai Lama, seems to require consideration in connection with point 111 of the British draft Agreement, with a view to safeguarding, as far as may be, the religious relations between the Russian Buriats and Lhassa from being utilized for political purposes.

As regards the temporary character of our occupation of the Chumbi Valley, Mr. Morley sees no objection to repeating in the Russian Agreement what has been said on the subject in connection with the ratification of the Lhassa Convention, and accepted by the Chinese Government in the Adhesion Convention. But at the same time he sees no necessity for doing this, in view of the explicit declarations already made by the British Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[35273] No. 71.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 194.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Peking, October* 19, 1906.

THIBET. Please refer to Mr. Carnegie's telegram No. 141 of the 21st July.

For the present the Dalai Lama will remain in Kansu Province; he is now in the neighbourhood of Kanchow. I am informed by Mr. T'ong that the Chinese Government have not altered their intention of refusing to permit his return to Thibet, and that he has been taken to Kansu to remove him from Russian influence.

[35149] No. 72.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1906.

I LAID before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs your letter of the 17th instant, regarding the proposed Anglo-Russian Agreement respecting Thibet; and I am to inform you that Sir E. Grey agrees with the views therein expressed.

With regard to paragraph 2 of your letter, Sir E. Grey proposes, if the Secretary of State for India concurs, to instruct His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to point out that Article I of the Adhesion Convention of the 27th April, 1906, provides that both Great Britain and China "engage to take at all times such steps as may be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified" in the Lhassa Convention of the 7th September, 1904, and to inform the Russian Government that, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, the direct relations between the British Commercial Agents and the Thibetan local authorities, which are allowed by Article II of the Russian draft, should extend to and include communications through the Thibetan local authorities with the Thibetan Government, should any such become necessary, with regard to the observance by Thibet of the Lhassa Convention. Words to that effect should, therefore, be inserted in the Article in order that there may be no room for misunderstanding. Sir E. Grey would propose to add that, in view of the fact that, except as regards China and various native States, the frontiers of Thibet are conterminous only with those of India, His Majesty's Government attach importance to the retention in the Article of words recognizing the special interest of Great Britain as regards the foreign relations of Thibet.

With regard to paragraph 3 of your letter, as to communications between the Buriats and the Dalai Lama, Sir E. Grey would propose to instruct Sir A. Nicolson to endeavour to procure the acceptance by the Russian Government of words to the effect that the two Governments will take such steps as may be necessary and possible to prevent these communications from assuming any political character.

Such an addition would give His Majesty's Government considerably stronger grounds for making representations to the Russian Government if it appeared that political communications were passing through the instrumentality of the pilgrims.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[36608] No. 73.

Question asked in the House of Commons, October 29, 1906.

Mr. Rees,—To ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view to developing trade in general, and trade in tea in particular, between India and Thibet, the Government of India proposes to make the road to Chumbi fit for cart traffic or otherwise to improve the trade routes.

Answer.

The Government of India have submitted no proposals as to the road to Chumbi or the improvement of the trade routes.

[37755] No. 74.

Question asked in the House of Commons, November 1, 1906.

Sir Edward Sassoon,—I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is now in a position to lay papers relating to Thibet upon the Table of the House.

Answer.

There are at present no papers relating to Thibet which could be presented consistently with the public interest. The agreement with China as to the Lhassa Convention has been already published.

[37452] No. 75.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received November* 6.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 5th November, relative to the proposed Anglo-Russian Agreement respecting Thibet.

India Office, November 6, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *November* 5, 1906.

YOUR telegram 28th ultimo: Thibet.

Necessity for all three additions proposed by Foreign Office to Article II of Russian draft has our full concurrence. We would remark, with reference to the first of these additions, that our right, not merely to address local Thibetan authorities, as allowed by Article II of our Russian draft, but also to send letters, if necessary, to Thibetan Government through Trade Agent, is secured, according to our interpretation, by Article V of Convention of September 1904. We are not aware, in respect of the

question dealt with in third addition, of the passage of political communications through instrumentality of pilgrims at the present time. Dorjieff, however, whose missions to Russia in 1900 and 1901 were, in reply to inquiry from His Majesty's Government, expressly stated by Russian Government to be of a religious character, was, we regard as certain, the means of such communications passing. Opportunity for Russian intrigue will, we consider, always be provided by religious communications between Buriats and Dalai Lama. How such communications can be prevented we do not see, but an agreement between the two Governments that neither Government, or its officers, should send communications through such pilgrims to any Thibetan authority would be something gained.

[37635]

No. 76.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received November* 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of correspondence received from the Government of India relative to Mr. Chang's Mission to Thibet.

India Office, November 7, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 76.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

1. Copy of Lieutenant Campbell's Report is submitted herewith to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, with reference to his telegram dated the 30th ultimo.

2. I do not think that I need add much to Lieutenant Campbell's Report. I have already dealt with the case as it presents itself to me in my telegram dated the 28th ultimo, to your address.

3. When I first arrived in the Chumbi Valley on the 27th ultimo, I told the Headmen, without mentioning Mr. Chang personally, that I hoped they were serving Lieutenant Campbell as loyally as they had served me when I was Assistant Political Officer here, and warned them that we should always expect implicit obedience from them. Since I have been here I have found them perfectly loyal, and no doubt Lieutenant Campbell's firmness at the beginning of this incident had also a good effect in this direction. There is no doubt but that Mr. Chang and his satellites have endeavoured to destroy our authority in the Chumbi Valley, but in this they have failed. Mr. Henderson informed me two days ago that the reason why Mr. Chang has prolonged his stay in the valley is that he has hoped to receive orders from the Chinese Foreign Office (Wai-wu Pu), authorizing him to exercise jurisdiction in the Chumbi Valley. There can, therefore, be no doubt as to Mr. Chang's intentions; there can be no doubt but that he has failed in them.

4. Having so failed, it may naturally be inferred that Mr. Chang was chagrined by his failure. The events connected with Lieutenant Campbell's call appear to show that the discourtesy was shown to Lieutenant Campbell, and not by him. Not only have we Lieutenant Campbell's account of the call itself, but also of his subsequent meeting with Mr. Henderson, and of the latter's apologetic attitude in reference to the matter. As regards the temporary detention of the Thibetan soldiers by the military guard, it appears that the detention was only for the purposes of inquiry. The action of the Chinese Yung in abusing the guard in the execution of their duty was indefensible. On Lieutenant Campbell asking me what to do in this matter, I advised him not to have the man rearrested, as the matter was not of importance, and I desired to avoid any appearance of discourtesy to Mr. Chang. In the matter, therefore, both of Lieutenant Campbell's call, and of the temporary detention of the Thibetan soldiers, it is clear that discourtesy was shown by the Chinese, rather than shown to them.

On the whole circumstances of the case, I do not think that Lieutenant Campbell can be held to blame.

5. With regard to Mr. Chang's complaint that he was not aware of the rules in force in the Chumbi Valley by which supplies are obtained through the Assistant Political Officer (see clause 5, paragraph 8, of my telegram referred to above), I find that the Depon—who was helping with Mr. Chang's transport before his arrival, and who met Mr. Chang before he entered the Chumbi Valley—was categorically informed by Lieutenant Bailey, then in collateral charge of the Chumbi Valley, that he must obtain the necessary transport and supplies through the Political clerk at Chumbi.

6. In conclusion, I would invite reference to my telegrams dated the 30th ultimo and the 1st and 4th instant. The relations between Mr. Chang and myself have been perfectly friendly throughout. While taking care to prevent any infringement of our rights in the Chumbi Valley, and any disrespect to our officers, I have been careful to avoid any action which would be interpreted as discourtesy to him. I have reason to believe that his staff are urging him to adopt a more sensible attitude towards us, and I see no reason why there should be any further friction between his side and ours.

(Signed) C. A. BELL,
Officiating Political Officer in Sikkim.

Chumbi, October 9, 1906.

Inclosure 2 in No. 76.

Report on the Arrival and Reception of Mr. Chang in the Chumbi Valley.

(Confidential.)

1. Before proceeding to describe the circumstances which led to Mr. Chang thinking that he had been treated with discourtesy in the Chumbi Valley, it may be as well to notice briefly what steps were taken to prepare for Mr. Chang's arrival.

2. Some weeks before Mr. Chang's arrival Mr. Sung, the late Popon of Pipitang, asked me where I proposed to "chieh" (receive or welcome) Mr. Chang. The question was asked in an off-hand manner, and I replied in a similar tone that we had no custom equivalent to the Chinese "ying chieh," and preferred not to be met on the road when arriving tired and dusty from a journey, rather preferring to receive our callers afterwards; and that, therefore, I proposed to call on Mr. Chang as soon as he arrived, in accordance with Western notions. At that time it was not known where Mr. Chang would live while in the Chumbi Valley. The Chinese Popon thought that Rinchengong would be selected, and proposed to hire a house, but this idea was afterwards dropped, as no house was hired (*vide* Inclosures (A) and (B)).* I telegraphed to Mr. Henderson on the 30th August (*vide* Inclosure (C)),* asking where Mr. Chang would stay, and telling Mr. Henderson that the dâk bungalow was ready, but I never received any reply on this point. Meanwhile, I went to Gangtok for a few days. On my return I learned, about the 12th September, that elaborate preparations were being made at Pipitang for Mr. Chang's visit. The larger Yamen was repaired and refurnish, the servants were provided with new clothes, and new hangings of red satin were put on the furniture in the reception hall. I had an opportunity of inspecting these preparations on Thursday, the 20th September, but the Popon never hinted that I should help in any way. I offered him some red candles to match his red satin table covers, which pleased him very much. While drinking tea in Mr. Chang's bedroom I asked the Popon whether he was going to Yatung to receive Mr. Chang, and whether Mr. Chang would be halting there. He replied that he was so busy with preparations in the Yamen that he would hardly be able to go to Yatung, and that he would receive Mr. Chang on arrival at Pipitang (*i.e.*, Mr. Chang would not stop at Yatung). On the following day, Friday, I went to Yatung to see Miss Taylor, and found the Chinese Tungling (Colonel) installed in a temple in the Chinese village. A Chinese dinner party had been arranged by the military officer at Yatung, and I received a very pressing invitation to join them after leaving Miss Taylor. As the Chinese were so anxious that I should join them I stayed, although the hour was late, and

* Not printed.

it was almost dark before dinner was over. We sat down six and the proceedings were most cordial. The Tungling said that he was going a little way up the hill to meet Mr. Chang, and that the latter was expected to go on to Pipitang. While we were at dinner Mr. Chang's advance messenger passed through Yatung on his way to Pipitang. I have mentioned these insignificant details of local doings immediately preceding Mr. Chang's arrival only to show that the relations between myself and the local Chinese officials were, and, I believe, are most cordial.

3. *Transport.*—Mr. Henderson asked by telegraph that transport might be sent to Rhenock, and under instructions from the Political Officer in Sikkim this was done. Two hundred baggage animals were sent from Chumbi to meet Mr. Henderson's party on the 19th September.

4. On the evening of Saturday, the 22nd September, I learned that Mr. Chang had arrived at Yatung, and halted there. On Sunday morning I inquired whether Mr. Chang had moved up to Pipitang as I wished to call as soon as possible after his arrival, but I was told that he had not left Yatung. Mr. Henderson sent up to the Chumbi Commissariat for bread on the Saturday evening, but did not send me any message.

5. On Monday morning I thought that either Mr. Henderson or the Chinese might possibly send me word of their projected movements. I was very unwilling to put in an appearance at Yatung, as after what I had heard of Mr. Chang's Mission "to open the trade marts" I did not want to visit Yatung while he remained there, as I feared that he might make capital out of my presence and perhaps report to Peking that he had formally opened the Yatung to trade in the presence of a British official. Also, I did not think that it was necessary to call on Mr. Chang before he arrived at his proper destination, Pipitang, unless of course he remained at Yatung for some time. His two days' halt at Yatung could only be explained by believing that he considered his business to do something there, and I was naturally anxious to avoid assisting in any Chinese official proceedings at Yatung while the Chumbi Valley remains under British control.

6. As no news was received from Yatung, and as the Thibetans said that Mr. Chang would reach Pipitang on that day, I left Chumbi about 1 o'clock on Monday, the 24th September, to call at Pipitang, hoping that by that time Mr. Chang would have arrived, as Chinese travellers usually make an early start. I sent one mounted peon on ahead to find out whether Mr. Chang had reached Pipitang. He galloped on ahead, and the rest of the party, consisting of my clerk, two other peons, and a policeman, followed slowly. About 1 mile above Pipitang I met the peon returning. He reported that Mr. Chang had not arrived, but that the Chinese were ready to receive him outside the Yamen. Mr. Chang, he said, was timed to leave Yatung at 1 o'clock. On hearing this I told the peon to wait where he was until he heard the Chinese bombs discharged at the Yamen on Mr. Chang's arrival and then report to me at Old Chumbi village, where I proposed to wait. About half-past 2 the peon reported to me at Old Chumbi village that he had heard the bombs discharged, and so I started once more for Pipitang. About 500 yards from the Yamen I sent the same peon on ahead with my Chinese visiting card, and followed slowly; thus giving the Chinese some five minutes warning. I may add that some of them must have known that I was somewhere near, as my peon had been there about half-past 1, or more than an hour before. When I reached the outskirts of Pipitang the peon met me and said that Mr. Chang invited me to enter. I rode up to the Yamen gate, but as there were none of the usual signs of reception I looked round for the peon again. The first interior door was shut, and a number of Chinese were loafing in the outermost court, which is always open. I halted without dismounting. Some of the Chinese motioned to the little door to one side of the principal entrance, by which servants and others were passing and repassing, and said "Ch'ing," which means "Please (come in)." I affected not to notice this. After a few moments a Chinese military official, with three gold bands on his sleeve (who was with Mr. Chang in Simla, and appeared to be a sort of major-domo), came out with my card in his hand and invited me to enter, motioning to the small side door. I did not look at it, but at the large centre door, and said, with a smile, "How can I enter when the door is shut?" He looked somewhat confused, and after a moment he remarked that if I wanted to call I should call in plain clothes. I did not at first understand this unexpected remark, as the words "pien yi," used for "plain clothes," may mean many things according to the tonic inflection. I turned to my clerk, and a Chinaman repeated the remark to him in Thibetan, when he said to me in English: "They say that if you want to call you should come in plain clothes another day, and not wear uniform except on business." The military official then said to me in Chinese: "Have you got any official business?" I replied, "Yes, I have come to pay an official call." He then

made some vague remark about the interpreter being out, and I said that I would talk myself. We were talking Chinese at the time. He then retired into the interior of the Yamen once more, and I remained impassive on my pony. About this point the new Popon passed with a servant bearing a tray of sweets. He bowed and smiled, and we exchanged greetings. There was no talking except a little murmured conversation amongst the Chinese soldiers and followers who were standing about. My own followers were dismounted and outside the porch, where they could not have heard or seen very much. After a short interval, the military official returned with an old servant of Mr. Sung, the late Popon. This man said, quite politely, that Mr. Chang was "not at home" ("tang chia"), and added that he was not very well and lying down. I merely acknowledged the message and, turning my pony, I rode off at a walk, followed by my own people. Nothing more occurred. It is noteworthy that I was invited to enter three times: first by a message given to my own peon; second, by the soldiers and others near the little side door; and, third, by the military official. It was only when the Chinese saw that I expected that the middle door should be opened as usual that Mr. Chang changed his mind and sent out to say that he was "not at home." The whole proceedings at Pipitang were perfectly quiet. I have had sufficient experience of Chinese ways not to show any surprise, and assumed as wooden a manner as possible in accordance with Chinese ideas of official etiquette in public. I never mentioned the little door or acknowledged its existence by as much as a gesture. I simply waited outside and came away immediately I was informed that Mr. Chang would not see me. So much for my visit to Pipitang.

7. About 400 yards from the village I inquired casually from my clerk whether he had made arrangements for certain transport required by the commissariat on the next day. He replied in the negative, but added that he had noticed the village Headmen at Pipitang, and that he would go back and see them about it. He turned back, and I rode up to my house. I was working in my office when the clerk returned some three hours after I had left the Yamen. He told me that as he was coming along the road with the Headmen he met some coolies carrying grass towards Pipitang and that the Headmen had admitted that this grass had been diverted from the commissariat to supply the Chinese. He had therefore brought the Headmen up to the office. I questioned the Headmen; who said that the Chinese Popon's interpreter at Pipitang had ordered them to supply grass. I reminded them that they could not take any orders direct from any one except myself. They replied that they were well aware of the orders, but that the Chinese were also officials, and powerful officials, and that they could not obey the orders and disobey the Chinese unless I provided police to act as a stiffener. Three of my five police were away on duty, and the remaining two were employed guarding a prisoner. I accordingly interviewed the Officer Commanding the Chumbi garrison, who promised me a military guard. This satisfied the Headmen. They were rather frightened that I might punish them for what they done, and confessed that they had also supplied fourteen pairs of Thibetan cushions and a number of curtains on loan on the direct requisition of the Chinese.

8. On Tuesday morning I rode down to Phema, saw the guard installed, and left two peons to act as interpreters. All was quiet. I then continued on my way to Yatung, as the Headmen had reported that the largest of the Thibetan houses at Yatung, which are at present treated as British property, had been broken open by some of Mr. Chang's people, and occupied without the payment of rent. The Headmen are intrusted with the collection of the rents of these houses. I had taken the precaution of posting a notice on the door of the empty house only a few days before, at the same time securing the door from the inside. The other houses were occupied at the time by Miss Taylor and the servants of the custom-house. Arriving at Yatung, I found that the notice had been defaced and the door lightly secured with a chain and nail from the outside. I prised up the nail and examined the interior of the house, which showed abundant traces of recent occupation. Miss Taylor informed me that Mr. Chang's chair coolies had lived in the house, and that much of his baggage had been stored there. I then called on Mr. Henderson, and, after a few minutes' general conversation, I mentioned casually that the other house appeared to have been broken open. He at once said, "I did that"; and added that the Customs people had always used the house since the Mission. I made a kind of formal protest, saying that the houses had formerly been Thibetan property, which he did not deny, and were at present British property, which he did not agree to. So I said that I was not able to discuss the matter, and we talked of other things. Mr. Henderson asked me whether I had seen Mr. Chang and the others; so I said that I had gone down to call, but had not been admitted by the centre door. I did not want to mention this to him, but as

he asked, I told him the bare fact, speaking quite unofficially. He was most apologetic, and said that he would see Mr. Chang that very afternoon, and that he hoped that I would not mind a temporary mistake, or words to that effect. He was quite confident that a mistake had occurred. Mr. Henderson asked me to stay to lunch, and I was there for about three hours. He appeared rather weary of the Chinese, and disappointed at Mr. Chang's impossible ideas. He mentioned that numerous complaints of our doings had been forwarded to him through Lhasa, and that Mr. Chang had proposed to investigate these complaints during his stay in Chumbi. Mr. Henderson had told him that he could not do it during our occupation, but I made a mental note, and I have some reason to believe that Mr. Chang did listen to some complaints at Pipitang during the first days of his stay, as the Headmen appeared to be there constantly, and I myself stopped one of them who was riding furiously through the cantonments one evening, and who, I had been informed only half-an-hour before, was ill in a distant village. I believe now that any kind of enquiry at Pipitang was given up after Wednesday, the 26th September, when the Headmen felt that they had our moral support and appeared to have more or less abandoned Pipitang. Mr. Henderson next told me that Mr. Chang had proposed to him to arrange for the immediate withdrawal of the Chumbi garrison. This, Mr. Henderson told him, was quite out of the question. Mr. Chang also wished to bring about the removal of the British Trade Agent from Gyantse. Mr. Henderson told him that the British had spent two or three million sterling on the Thibet Mission, and that the posting of a Trade Agent at Gyantse was one of the results, and his removal most improbable. On the whole, Mr. Henderson seemed very annoyed with the Chinese, and I think that he had even then begun to find that Mr. Chang of Calcutta and Simla and the Mr. Chang of Thibet were two different people. After lunch I rode back to Chumbi, past Phema and Pipitang, and remarked nothing unusual.

9. On Wednesday morning Mr. Henderson came up to say that the Chinese had complained that supplies had been cut off because I had not been admitted to the Yamen. I told him that they were under a misapprehension, and explained the local arrangements to him, adding that the Chinese had only to let me know their requirements, to indent on me in other words, to be supplied at once. Mr. Henderson understood at once, and appeared quite satisfied that the Chinese were mistaken as to the facts. The Chinese complaint was all the more incomprehensible as the local Chinese officials are well aware that they must not give orders to or attempt to obtain any jurisdiction over the Headmen during our occupation. This point was also impressed on the Depon who came down from Lhasa to make arrangements for Mr. Chang (enclosure 'D').* It is interesting to note that this same Depon has since admitted on two separate occasions that he did give orders to the Headmen direct, so that he is probably largely responsible for the Chinese misunderstanding or neglecting our administrative arrangements. Mr. Henderson was sorry that the Yamen door had not been opened, but he said that Mr. Chang had told him that the opening of the centre door was a very high honour reserved for Generals and *perhaps* the Political Officer in Sikkim. I did not discuss the technical side of the question, but mentioned that I had been properly received by three Chinese Viceroys (or Provincial Governors). Mr. Henderson went off perfectly satisfied that he would be able to smooth the ruffled Chinese.

10. I thought nothing more of the matter until about 4 o'clock, when I saw Mr. Henderson looking very worried standing near the telegraph office. He told me that when he returned to Pipitang after seeing me he found the Chinese in a state of great excitement. He had told them what I had said, but they had retorted that I was playing a double game, and that while I was talking to him at Shasima my people were arresting Chinese and Thibetan soldiers outside Pipitang. As we were speaking, a report came in from the Phema guard. It appeared that some men carrying wood had been temporarily detained while enquiries were made, and that a Chinese Yung, or militiaman had rushed out, and using violent language prepared to assault the sepoys and the peons. He said: "If you want to arrest ('sim') anybody, arrest me," and as he was about to commit an assault he was detained, but released the same evening at the instance of Mr. Henderson, who spoke to the havildar in charge of the guard. The men who were carrying wood are said to have been Thibetan soldiers, but as they wore no distinctive uniform or badge of any sort they were not recognized as such. In any case, they were only temporarily detained, and certainly not beaten, as has been alleged by the Chinese, or otherwise maltreated. To return, Mr. Henderson left after sending a telegram, and I asked the Officer Commanding the Chumbi garrison to send a British officer to Phema to prevent any further misunderstanding. In the meantime, a Bhutanese rowdy appeared

* Not printed

at Phema, and, after attempting to stab a man, he gave a woman a serious cut on the head. The Bhutanese was confined by the guard, and the woman's head was sewed up by the Hospital Assistant who was sent down that evening.

11. On Thursday morning I rode down past Pipitang and Phema and met Mr. C. A. Bell, Political Officer in Sikkim, not far from Kag-gyu monastery. I told him what had occurred. At this point my Report naturally ends.

(Signed) W. L. CAMPBELL, *Lieutenant*,
Assistant Political Officer at Chumbi.

Chumbi, October 8, 1906.

[38306] No. 77.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 27th September, relative to Thibet affairs.

India Office, November 13, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Mr. White to Government of India.

(Confidential) *Gangtok, August* 29, 1906.

IN continuation of my letter dated the 7th July last, I have the honour to report that the Kunduling Dzasak has returned to Lhassa, *en route* to the Dalai Lama, to whom he is conveying a letter from the Tashi Lama explaining why he went to Calcutta

My informant saw Badula in Shigatse and then went on to Lhassa, where he saw and spoke to the Ti-Rimpoche and the four Shapes, from whom he heard that the Lhassa authorities are very desirous of getting the Dalai Lama back to Lhassa before Chang arrives, so that he will be there during Chang's visit; they are also very much perturbed, and seem afraid and unwilling to do anything without the Dalai Lama, to whom all matters of importance are referred. Beyond arrangements having been made for the journey, nothing is actually known as to the Dalai Lama's coming back. It is also said in Lhassa that no final arrangements have been come to with the British, and they do not know what Chang will do. As all the important officials will be wanted to meet and discuss matters with Chang, the Kunduling Dzasak has been detained at Lhassa, and another messenger dispatched with the Tashi Lama's letter.

I am also informed that there is no disagreement between the monasteries in Lhassa.

[38439] No. 78.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 15.)

Sir, *India Office, November* 14, 1906.

I AM directed to acknowledge Mr. Campbell's letter dated the 26th ultimo, on the subject of the proposed Anglo-Russian Agreement respecting Thibet, and, in reply, to say that Mr. Secretary Morley concurs generally in the instructions which the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs proposes to send to His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh.

It will be observed, from the Viceroy's telegram of the 5th instant, that, in the opinion of the Government of India, Article V of the Lhassa Convention of 1904 secures our right to send letters through the trade agent to the Thibetan Government as well as to the local Thibetan authorities. Mr. Morley accepts this view, and would suggest, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that it might suffice to omit in Article II of the Russian draft the word "locales" after the words "autorités Thibétaines," and to

add at the end of the sentence a reference to the Convention with China on the 27th April, 1906. The point to be established is the right of the British Government to address the Thibetan Government direct—should communications through the Thibetan local authorities be disregarded at Lhassa—and Mr. Morley fears that there may be grounds for misunderstanding if, in the words which it is proposed in Mr. Campbell's letter to add to the Russian draft Article, our communications with the Lhassa Government are limited to communications through the Thibetan local authorities.

As regards the question of communications between the Buriats and the Dalai Lama, Mr. Morley would suggest, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that a clause, such as is suggested in the Viceroy's telegram of the 5th instant, should be added to the words on the subject which it is proposed in Mr. Campbell's letter that the Russian Government should be invited to accept.

Mr. Morley would further suggest, with reference to the last sentence of paragraph 2 of Mr. Campbell's letter, that the words "except as regards China and various native States, the frontiers of Thibet are conterminous only with those of India," should read as follows: "except as regards China, the frontiers of Thibet are conterminous only with those of the Indian Empire."

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[38942] No. 79.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 296. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 19, 1906.*

M. ISVOLSKY informed me to-day, privately and confidentially, of Dorjieff's presence in St. Petersburgh. He had not himself seen him, though he was consulting on Mongolian affairs with officials of the Russian Foreign Office.

His Excellency stated that the Russian Government had given the Dalai Lama, who was staying at Gumbum, to understand that it was not desirable that he should return at present to Thibet; and he further assured me that no Russian official, nor any person subject to Russian control, would accompany him if he were to return there. The Chinese Government, who found the Dalai Lama an unwelcome guest, were, he had heard, urging him to return to Thibet, but he said he could not vouch for the truth of this report.

[38942] No. 80.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 197. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 21, 1906.*

RETURN of Dalai Lama to Thibet: see your telegram No. 194 of the 19th ultimo.

Sir A. Nicolson has been privately informed by M. Isvolsky that it was reported that the Chinese Government, finding the Lama an inconvenient guest, were urging him to return. M. Isvolsky assured Sir A. Nicolson that, if the Lama complied, no one under the control of the Russian Government would be allowed to accompany him, and that they had intimated to the Lama that it was undesirable that he should return to Thibet at present.

M. Isvolsky also stated that Dorjieff was in St. Petersburgh, and was consulting as to Mongolian affairs with officials of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

[39463] No. 81.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 228.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Peking, November 24, 1906.*

KINDLY repeat the following telegram to the Government of India:—

"Thibet. Please see the Convention signed at Lhassa on the 7th September, 1904, and the Declaration attached thereto.

"An understanding with His Majesty's Government concerning the date of the 'effective opening' of the trade marts is desired by the Chinese Government, who have apparently been under the impression that it should be reckoned from the date of the Convention. If, however, that is not the case, they are anxious that the date should now be definitely arranged."

[39559] No. 82.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 26.)

(No. 770. Confidential.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, November* 19, 1906.

M. ISVOLSKY informed me to-day that he desired to mention to me, privately and confidentially, that M. Dorjieff, the former Agent or Representative of the Dalai Lama, was at present in St. Petersburgh, and had been in communication with certain officials in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. M. Isvolsky said that he had not himself seen M. Dorjieff, and did not propose to do so, as he did not wish to give that gentleman an undue sense of his own importance. He wished, however, to acquaint me with the fact of his presence here, and also to mention that he was in consultation with officials, but chiefly on matters pertaining to Mongolia. He desired to inform me further that the Dalai Lama was at present at Gumbum, and that the Russian Government had let him understand that, in their view, it was undesirable that he should return to Thibet, in any case for the present. The Russian Government could not, of course, control the movements of the Dalai Lama, but they had taken all possible steps, in the event of that personage moving towards Thibet, to prevent any Russian official or any one over whom the Government had any control from accompanying him. At the same time his Excellency said that he had received information, for the accuracy of which he could not vouch, that the Chinese Government were urging the Dalai Lama to return to Lhassa as they found him an inconvenient guest.

M. Isvolsky said that the Dalai Lama exercised great influence over all the Buddhists, both Russian and Mongolian, and it was, therefore, of interest to the Russian Government to keep in touch with him, presumably through M. Dorjieff, not as the Grand Lama of Thibet, but as the spiritual Chief of so many Russian subjects. He wished to be quite frank and open with me; and therefore gave me the above information in a private and confidential form.

M. Isvolsky proceeded to say that the measures which the Chinese Government were taking, and those which they were apparently contemplating, in Mongolia, were causing some uneasiness to the Russian Government. The project which the Chinese Government had in view was evidently to replace the ancient feudal system of more or less independent Principalities by a centralized Chinese Administration, and one result of this proposed reform had been already to induce many Mongols, who disapproved of these changes, to seek a refuge in Russian territory. The Japanese also had numerous Agents in Mongolia who were actively furthering the aims of the Chinese Government, and he thought that this action on the part of Japan was unnecessary and irregular. M. Isvolsky wished to impress on me the great importance which any change in the former political status in Mongolia had to Russia, and he feared that the action of China would necessitate the strengthening of the Russian frontier posts and garrisons.

From the observations of M. Isvolsky in regard to the influence of the Dalai Lama over the Mongols, it is possible that the Russian Government would be willing that he should remain at his present domicile, and that they would endeavour to utilize him, with the assistance of M. Dorjieff, who, I understood, had left a secretary with his Eminence, either as a source of information or as an Agent in hampering the policy of the Chinese Government.

I reported in my telegram No. 296 of this day's date the information as to M. Dorjieff's presence here and the present domicile of the Dalai Lama.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[39992] No. 83.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of correspondence relative to proposed visits of British officials to Shigatse.

India Office, November 27, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

Mr. Bell to Government of India.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Chumbi, October 6, 1906.*

DRONYER of Tashi Lama has told me that Lama, having heard that I am going to Gyantse, has told him to ask me to come to Shigatse. Lama wishes to speak to me on matters which he is not desirous to discuss through a third party. Acceptance of the invitation very desirable. Please refer to the Report on the interview between the Viceroy and Lama in Calcutta. Lama complains of oppression by Chinese, and it is very desirable to hear all that Lama wishes to say. Henderson says that he intends to go to Shigatse, and continual refusals of invitations by British officials will necessarily alienate sympathies of Lama from us.

(Addressed to Foreign, Simla; repeated to Foreign with Viceroy, Viceroy's Camp.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Government of India to Mr. Bell.

(Telegraphic.) *Quetta, October 10, 1906.*

YOUR telegram of the 6th instant.

As Henderson visits Shigatse, there is no objection to your going there. Visit should be made without unnecessary ceremonial or publicity. You can hear and report what Lama may say, but should be careful to avoid committing Government in any way.

Inclosure 3 in No. 83.

Mr. Bell to Government of India.

Sir, *Camp Chumbi, October 5, 1906.*

WITH reference to the frontier Confidential Report, dated the 4th October, 1906, received from the Assistant Political Officer, I have the honour to say that the Dronyer spoke to me also to the same effect, as narrated in paragraph (1) of the Assistant Political Officer's Report.

I have asked Mr. Campbell about the invitation, and he tells me he is not quite clear about the wording, as he could not altogether follow the Dronyer's conversation, which was in Thibetan. Mr. Campbell's clerk, who interpreted for him, says that what the Dronyer actually said was to the following effect: "Are you coming to Shigatse? If so, I will make very good arrangements on the road. I was in charge of the arrangements when Captains O'Connor and Steen came. I have heard that Mr. Henderson is coming to Shigatse." It was not, therefore, exactly an invitation,

though there can be no doubt but that the Tashi Lama would be very glad for our officials to visit Shigatse.

The Dronyer also told me that the Tashi Lama told him to ask me whether I knew what Mr. Chang intended to do in Thibet. I told him that I was not aware of this.

I have, &c.
(For Officiating Political Officer),
(Signed) W. H. HODGES,
Superintendent.

Inclosure 4 in No. 83.

Mr. Bell to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Gyantse, October* 24, 1906.

YOUR telegram dated the 10th instant.

I have arranged with the Tashi Lumpo Government to leave for Shigatse next Saturday. They are very pleased at acceptance of invitation, and the date suits them. I shall be careful not to commit Government in any way. May Dover, State Engineer, accompany me, and return by direct route through North Sikkim? I want him to estimate cost of cart road from Gyantse to Shigatse, in accordance with your telegram dated the 8th December, 1905, and of mule road from Shigatse to Khamba Jong. He will make his estimate without doing anything to attract attention.

(Addressed to Foreign, Simla; repeated to Foreign, with Viceroy.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 83.

Government of India to Mr. Bell.

(Telegraphic.) *Srinagar, October* 26, 1906.

YOUR telegram of the 24th instant.

There is no objection to Dover accompanying you to Shigatse, but it is not desirable that he should return viâ Khamba Jong, as there appears to be no immediate necessity for mule road there.

Inclosure 6 in No. 83.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *November* 15, 1906.

THIBET. Tashi Lama.

Please see telegram in Foreign Department to Political Officer, Sikkim, of the 10th ultimo, inclosed in Secretary's letter, granting him permission to visit Tashi Lama. A definite statement of the views of His Majesty's Government as to undesirability of such visits was contained in my telegram of the 18th September last. I can find no special reasons for action taken in papers forwarded, and I should be glad of explanations as to how it happened that permission was given in the present case without previous reference to me. His Majesty's Government should be consulted before communication of any kind, in connection with representations made by him to Political Officer, is made to Tashi Lama.

[40196] No. 84.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 302.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November* 29, 1906.

MY despatch No. 467 of 21st July.

I was asked yesterday by Minister for Foreign Affairs to explain to him again His Majesty's Government's definition of the boundaries of Thibet. I have communicated to him what were roughly stated to be the frontiers of Thibet as mentioned in

my despatch quoted above, and have reminded him of his proposal that, instead of trying ourselves to define the boundaries, we should accept the definition of the Chinese Government of that country.

Should he again mention the matter, would you wish me to agree to this proposal?

[40244] No. 85.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received November* 30.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 8th instant, relative to the visit of the Tashi Lama to India.

India Office, November 29, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Mr. C. Bell to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Camp Gyantse, October* 23, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to state that, when the Tashi Lama's party was in Calcutta, the Chief Minister of Tashi Lhunpo (Gyap-ying Chempo) asked Mr. Chang to send a letter to the Emperor of China, saying that the Tashi Lama hoped the Emperor would not be angry with him for going to India, that he was returning soon to Thibet, and would continue to serve the Emperor as before. The reply of the Emperor (there is no distinction among Thibetans between the Emperor of China and the Chinese Government) reached Tashi Lhunpo about a week ago, and it is to the following effect:—

"In going to India without previously obtaining my leave you acted very wrongly. I am, however, glad to hear that you are soon returning to Thibet, and that you will continue to serve me loyally as before. In these circumstances no punishment will be imposed."

2. The aforesaid Minister has come to Gyantse, and is going to await Mr. Chang here, partly in order to show him exceptional politeness—for according to precedent he need go only 10 to 12 miles out of Shigatse to meet Mr. Chang—and partly in order to sound Mr. Chang as to whether he has any other instructions from the Chinese Government about the Tashi Lama.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BELL.

[40298] No. 86.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received November* 30.)

Sir, *India Office, November* 29, 1906.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge the receipt of Sir F. Campbell's letter of the 20th instant, and to state in reply that he concurs in the draft despatch which the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs proposes to address to His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh as to the terms of the Agreement relative to Thibet under discussion with the Russian Government.

Mr. Morley would suggest, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that, in the last paragraph but one of the draft despatch, reference should be made not only to the question of scientific missions, but also to the exclusion from Thibet of Russian officials in any capacity whatever, on which stress was laid in the original instructions to Sir A. Nicolson.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[40257] No. 87.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 30.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 28th November, relative to Mr. Bell's visit to Shigatse.

India Office, November 29, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 87.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *November* 28, 1906.

THIBET. Your telegram dated the 15th November.

Reply on subject of visits to Shigatse of Mr. Bell has been delayed until fact of his actually having gone there and what took place could be ascertained. According to his report, Tashi Lama, whom he saw twice, on the 3rd and 6th instant, said that he still feared trouble, though since he had received from Emperor of China a letter saying that he would not be punished for his visits to India, he was more reassured regarding Chinese designs against him from Lhasa.

Lama proceeded to put forward garbled version of promise of arms and protection which I was alleged to have made him. Mr. Bell, however, by reading correct account of Calcutta interview, with which Lama professed himself satisfied, was able to refute this.

I regret that I did not report for your previous sanction my decision to allow Mr. Bell to go to Shigatse under conditions stated in telegram dated the 10th October from Foreign Secretary, and in the circumstances set forth in Mr. Bell's telegram of the 6th October. An immediate answer was understood to be required, and telegram was sent from Camp, where the papers were not available. No harm has, I trust, resulted, and dispatch by Tashi Lama of a personal letter to me, which might have been much more awkward to deal with, was apparently prevented by Mr. Bell's visit.

[40689] No. 88.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 29th ultimo, relative to the trade marts in Thibet.

India Office, December 1, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, November* 29, 1906.

DO you see any objection to informing Chinese Government that the 1st January, 1905, is date from which effective opening of Thibetan marts under Lhassa Convention is to be reckoned? His Majesty's Minister, Peking, telegraphs that they are anxious to come to an understanding on this point. Date presumably should be that named above.

[40901] No. 89.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 237.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Peking, December 5, 1906.*

THIBET. Please refer to your telegram No. 197 of the 21st instant.

Yesterday I was again assured by the Wai-wu Pu that they have no intention of permitting the Dalai Lama to return yet to Thibet. He is still at Hsi Ning.

[40298] No. 90.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 536.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 5, 1906.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 677 of the 8th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a draft Convention with regard to Thibet, handed to you by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and, in conjunction with His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, I have considered M. Isvolsky's proposals.

With regard to Article II of the draft Convention, you should point out to the Russian Government that Article I of the Adhesion Convention of the 27th April, 1906, provides that both Great Britain and China "engage to take at all times such steps as may be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified" in the Lhassa Convention of the 7th September, 1904, and you should inform them that, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, Article V of the Lhassa Convention secures the right of Great Britain to send letters through the British Agent mentioned in that Article to the Thibetan Government as well as to the Thibetan local authorities. The point to be established is the right of His Majesty's Government to address the Thibetan Government direct, should communication through the Thibetan local authorities in regard to the fulfilment of the Lhassa Convention be disregarded at Lhassa. You should therefore propose to the Russian Government the omission in Article II of the Russian draft of the word "locales" after the words "autorités Thibétaines," and the addition at the end of the sentence of a reference to the Convention with China of the 27th April, 1906.

You should also inform the Russian Government that, in view of the fact that, except as regards China, the frontiers of Thibet are conterminous only with those of the Indian Empire, His Majesty's Government attach importance to the retention in the Article of words recognizing the special interest of Great Britain with regard to the foreign relations of Thibet.

With regard to the last sentence of the Russian draft Article II, you should propose the addition of words to the effect that no communications between the Governments of Great Britain or Russia, or their Agents, and any Thibetan authority should pass through the instrumentality of Buddhist pilgrims into Thibet, and that the two Governments will take such steps as may be necessary and possible to prevent the relations of the British and Russian Buddhists with the representatives of Buddhism in Thibet from assuming a political character. You should endeavour to procure the acceptance of these words by the Russian Government, the addition of which would give His Majesty's Government considerably stronger grounds for making representations to the Russian Government, should it come to their knowledge at any time that political communications were passing through the pilgrims.

With regard to the questions of scientific missions to Thibet, and the exclusion of Russian officials from Thibet in any capacity whatever, raised in the penultimate paragraph of your despatch under reply, I agree that the matter may more conveniently be arranged by an exchange of notes than by means of a clause in the Convention itself.

As to the question of the occupation of the Chumbi Valley, His Majesty's Government would raise no objection to repeating in the Russian Agreement what has been said on the subject in connection with the ratification of the Lhassa Convention and accepted by the Chinese Government in the Adhesion Convention. But, at the same time, they see no necessity for doing this, in view of the explicit declarations already made by them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[41059] No. 91.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, with reference to the letter from the India Office of the 1st instant, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 6th December, 1906, relative to the date of the opening of the trade marts in Thibet.

India Office, December 6, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. [*December* 6, 1906.]

THIBET. Your telegram, dated the 29th ultimo. I see no objection to Chinese Government being informed that date, as to which I agree, from which trade marts shall be reckoned as having been effectively opened under term of Lhassa Convention, may be held to be the 1st January, 1905.

[41059] No. 92.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 213.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 7, 1906.

WITH reference to the inquiry contained in your telegram No. 228 of the 24th November respecting trade marts in Thibet, the Government of India hold that the date from which the effective opening of trade marts in accordance with the provisions of the Lhassa Convention should be reckoned is the 1st January, 1905. You may inform the Chiuese Government of this.

[41244] No. 93.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated 6th December, relative to the boundaries of Thibet.

India Office, December 8, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, December* 6, 1906.

THIBET. Please refer to your telegram dated 13th July last, and despatch of 21st July last, No. 467, from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh. Sir A. Nicolson asks, with reference to that despatch, whether, in the event of question as to Thibet boundaries being again raised by M. Isvolsky, concurrence in latter's suggestion that, instead of attempting to define boundaries ourselves, we should take as Thibet country which Chinese Government considers as such, is open to any objection.

I should be glad to have your views on the subject.

[41868] No. 94.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 243.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Peking, December* 13, 1906.

THIBETAN indemnity. Please refer to your telegram No. 89 of the 4th May last.

I have been asked in what way the Chinese Government should carry out their desire to pay the second instalment by telegraphic transfer from Shanghae. It is due on the first day next year.

[42029] No. 95.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 15.)

Sir, *India Office, December* 13, 1906.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge the receipt of Sir E. Barrington's letter of the 26th November last, relative to the opening of the trade marts in Thibet, and in reply to invite attention to the Viceroy's telegram of the 6th instant on the subject.

Mr. Morley concurs with the Government of India that the 1st January, 1905, may be regarded as the date from which the "effective opening" of the trade marts under the Lhassa Convention shall be reckoned, and that there is no objection to the Chinese Government being informed accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

Telegraphic.) P. *December* 6, 1906.

THIBET. Your telegram dated 29th ultimo.

I see no objection to Chinese Government being informed that date, as to which I agree, from which trade marts shall be reckoned as having been effectively opened under term of Lhassa Convention, may be held to be 1st January, 1905.

[42084] No. 96.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 309.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, December* 16, 1906.

DRAFT Arrangement. Your despatch No. 536 of the 5th instant.

Article 2 of Russian draft as to treating with Thibet through intermediary of Chinese Government. After first sentence I would propose following insertion :—

"The direct relations between Thibetan authorities and the British Commercial Agents provided for in the Anglo-Thibetan Convention (Article V) of the 7th September, 1904, and confirmed by the Anglo-Chinese Convention of the 27th April, 1906, are not excluded by this arrangement, nor are the engagements entered into between Great Britain and China by the above-mentioned Convention of 1906 (Article I) modified thereby."

I would suggest then an insertion as to our special interests.

In order to emphasize our special position as regards China and Thibet, I submit that it would be well, if possible, to insert allusion to Article I of Convention of 1906.

I would propose to insert sentence mentioned in your despatch No. 536 as to non-political character, &c., after sentence as to religious relations of Russian and British Buddhists.

[42153] No. 97.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 17.)

(No. 448.)

Sir, *Peking, October* 31, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to state that the information regarding the Dalai Lama's movements which was given in my telegram No. 194 of the 19th October was obtained from his Excellency T'ong Shoa-Yi privately; but in consequence of reports in the Chinese press, a specimen of which is inclosed herewith, I thought it useful to make an official inquiry at the Wai-wu Pu. At an interview on the afternoon of the 19th instant, the Grand Secretary, Na T'ung, said that the Dalai Lama was then at a place three marches distant from Kanchou, and within the jurisdiction of the Imperial Commissioner at Hsi Ning. His Excellency was not aware of the intentions of the Chinese Government, which had not been announced, but he thought that the Dalai Lama would remain for the present in the jurisdiction of the Hsi Ning Commissioner, and would not be allowed to return to Thibet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Extract from the "Shun T'ien Shih Pao," of October 25, 1906.

(Translation.)

The Dalai Lama.—While the Dalai Lama was at Uliassutai and Sain Noin, it was reported that he was accompanied by a large number of Russian Buddhists. He started for Thibet in the first decade of the 7th month (towards the end of September), and has now reached Hsi Ning. The Governor-General of Shen Kan Provinces and the Imperial Commissioner at Hsi Ning have reported to the Throne that on his arrival in Kansu the Dalai Lama was accompanied by a number of Princes of Outer Mongolia, and a guard from Uliassutai city, but no Russian Buddhists. Owing to the stream of visitors from Ching Hai and Mongolia, who have come to pay their respects, the Dalai Lama will make a few days' stay in Kansu before proceeding to Thibet.

[42302] No. 98.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 16th instant, relative to the claims of a Chinese official at Gyantse to act as intermediary in transactions between British officers and Thibetans.

India Office, December 17, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *December* 16, 1906.

THIBET. Threat to stop supply of provisions by Thibetans to trade agent at Gyantse, unless they are paid for at rates to be fixed by himself, has been made by Mr. Gow, a Chinese official, posted by Mr. Chang at Gyantse, according to his own account, as Sub-Prefect, with title of Chinese Commissioner, in charge of Chinese trade and Diplomatic Agency. Right is claimed by him that, in all transactions between Thibetans and British officers, he should act as intermediary. Reference to Peking for necessary authority has apparently been made before enforcement of threat.

Direct communication with Thibetan authorities is secured to British officers under Article V of the 1904 Convention. British subjects are further at liberty to buy native

commodities from whomsoever they choose without any vexatious restrictions under Article 2 of the 1893 Trade Regulations, which applies at present to trade marts.

We would therefore recommend that instructions should be sent to British Minister at Peking that, if point arises, he should object, on these grounds, to any Chinese officer interfering in ordinary trade dealings, and should strongly insist on right of British officers and subjects to purchase provisions from local Thibetans direct.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[42301] No. 99.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 16th instant, relative to the boundaries of Thibet.

India Office, December 17, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 99.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *December* 16, 1906.

BOUNDARIES of Thibet: Your telegram dated the 16th instant.

Please see Viceroy's telegrams of 13th and 22nd July on this subject, to which we have little to add.

As China is trying to assert rights in Eastern Thibet which did not exist previously, it is impossible to say what boundary, perhaps on foreign instigation, she might claim in Thibet.

Isvolsky's reference to Kham is peculiar, and raises suspicion as to Russia's real intentions, since, although Kozloff did try to work out route through that district to French Indo-China, Russia can have no special interest there, Kham being a large tract lying in south-east of Thibet.

Unless Peking Legation can ascertain that China accepts our view of northern boundary, and has no special claims to advance on Eastern Thibet beyond Tachienlu, or possibly Litang, we would prefer, if it is necessary at present to define Thibetan boundary, to adhere to general statement contained in Viceroy's telegram of 13th July.

Attempt by China to occupy Nyarung is reported.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[42480] No. 100.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 15th November, relative to the departure from Calcutta for Peking of a Mongolian who is suspected of being a secret Thibetan Agent.

India Office, December 18, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Government of India to Sir J. Jordan.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Simla, November* 11, 1906.

ON the 12th ultimo a Mongolian, named Khai Lama, left Calcutta for Peking. He described himself as a monk of the Drepung Monastery, but is suspected of being a secret Thibetan Agent. He endeavoured to avoid notice of British officers during land journey from Lhassa downwards.

[42760] No. 101.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 248.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Peking, December* 21, 1906.

THIBET: effective opening of trade marts.

I have the honour to inform you that the Chinese Government accept the date mentioned in your telegram No. 213 of the 7th instant.

[42866] No. 102.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 22.)

Sir, *India Office, December* 21, 1906.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram from the Government of India relative to the proceedings of a Chinese official who has been posted at Gyantse by Mr. Chang.*

Mr. Morley agrees with the Government of India that these proceedings are contrary to the provisions of the Lhassa Convention of 1904, as accepted by the Chinese Government in the Convention of 1906.

He would therefore recommend, for Sir E. Grey's favourable consideration, that His Majesty's Minister at Peking should be instructed to call the attention of the Chinese Government at once, if he thinks it expedient, to the facts reported by the Government of India, and, if the case arises, to insist upon the rights secured by the Convention of 1906 to British subjects and to British officials at the trade marts.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

[43185] No. 103.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 24.)

Sir, *India Office, December* 24, 1906.

IN reply to Sir F. Campbell's letter of the 14th instant, as to the wish of the Chinese Government to pay, by telegraphic transfer from Shanghae, the instalment of the Thibetan indemnity due on the 1st January next, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of telegraphic correspondence with the Viceroy on the subject.

Mr. Morley does not agree with the Government of India that the formality of payment by a Representative of the Thibetan Government should be maintained. This view would seem to be a departure from the policy of His Majesty's Government. Though the point is comparatively immaterial, Mr. Morley thinks we should assent to the wish of the Chinese Government. This would not prejudice us should further pretensions be made by China.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

* Inclosure in No. 98.

Inclosure 1 in No 103.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, December* 16, 1906.

I SHOULD be glad to receive your views by telegraph as to a desire expressed by the Chinese Government to pay instalment of Thibetan indemnity, due 1st January, 1907, by telegraphic transfer from Shanghae, and inquiry they have made as to how they should do this. There will presumably be no objection on the part of Government of India to Chinese Government making the payment in the manner that may be most convenient to themselves.

Inclosure 2 in No. 103.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *December* 22, 1906.

THIBET indemnity: Your telegram of 16th instant.

Instalment is payable by Thibetan Government, under Article VI of the 1904 Convention, at such place as, after due notice, may from time to time be indicated by British Government, whether in the British districts of Jalpaiguri or Darjiling, or in Thibet. Permission was accorded to Sechung Shape, by whom instalment due on 1st January, 1905, was paid, to make payment at Calcutta, as he happened to be there at the time. Proposal for direct payment by China of second instalment by telegraphic transfer, without intervention of Thibetans, is now understood to have been made by Chinese. We would recommend that deviation from procedure laid down in Convention should not be permitted, as it appears to us that proposal is further indication of Chinese desire to exclude Thibetans from relations with us. As to this, I would invite reference to my telegram of the 16th instant. We might perhaps reply to Chinese Government that, as was done on last occasion (see letter dated 17th May last from Wai-wu Pu to British Chargé d'Affaires), instalment may be remitted to Calcutta by telegraphic transfer, and that a Thibetan official should then hand to the Gyantse Trade Agent a cheque for the amount in question. This could easily be arranged by Mr. Chang.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[43185] No. 104.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 222.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 24, 1906.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 243 of the 13th instant, reporting the desire of the Chinese Government to pay the instalment of the Thibetan indemnity, due on the 1st January by telegraphic transfer, you may inform the Chinese Government that His Majesty's Government consent to the proposal. The instalment may be remitted by telegraphic transfer to Calcutta.

[42480] No. 105.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 223.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 25, 1906.

THE Government of India report that a Mongolian, by name Khai Lama, who described himself as a monk from the Drepung Monastery, but who is suspected of being a secret Agent of the Government of Thibet, left Calcutta for Peking on the 12th October last.

[43212] No. 106.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 314.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, December* 26, 1906.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 536 respecting Thibet, in my interview with M. Isvolsky to-day I spoke on the subject of the occupation of the Chumbi Valley. He wishes a clause inserted in the Convention to the effect that if our occupation of the valley were for some reason prolonged, provisions of Convention should be reconsidered, but he does not desire what was stated in the ratifications to be repeated in the Convention. When he has thought out a formula he promises to speak to me again on the subject. Whilst giving him no indication as to their nature, I told him that I hoped soon to communicate to him our amendments to his draft Article II. A report of our conversation will follow by message.

[43368] No. 107.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 22nd instant, relative to the movements of the Dalai Lama.

India Office, December 27, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *December* 22, 1906.

THIBET. Your telegram dated the 8th instant.

Dalai Lama stated to be on his way back to Lhassa in a telegram which, according to report of Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi, Mr. Chang received while at Gyantse from the Chinese Government. Person who returned recently from Lhassa reported that he had been informed by Ti Rimpoche of letters to Shapes and Ti Rimpoche from Dalai Lama, stating that orders to return as soon as possible to Lhassa had been received by Lama from Emperor of China.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[43440] No. 108.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 27th instant, relative to the opening of the trade marts in Thibet.

India Office, December 27, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *December* 27, 1906.

OPENING of trade marts in Thibet. Please see my telegram dated the 6th instant.

Trade mart at Gyantse was announced to have been formally opened on 14th ultimo by Mr. Chang during his visit to that place. Mr. Chang's desire to

interpose Chinese action in all matters between Thibetans and our officers at trade marts (to which attention was drawn in my telegram of 16th instant) is further illustrated by this action, which he took in spite of warning from Mr. Henderson that continued occupation of Chumbi Valley for three years from the date on which the mart was opened might be claimed by British Government under Article VII of the Lhassa Convention and the Declaration attached thereto.

So far as China is concerned, Mr. Chang's action apparently entitles us, under Convention, to remain in Chumbi Valley until 14th November, 1909, and, should China give further trouble as regards Thibetan frontier or trade regulations, or our direct dealings with Thibetans, this fact may be useful.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[42866] No. 109.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 227.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 28, 1906.

PROCEEDINGS at Gyantse of Chinese official referred to in telegram of the 16th December from Viceroy of India.

Unless you see objection to such a course, you are authorized to at once call the attention of the Chinese Government to the facts which are reported by the Government of India.

You should insist, if the case arises, upon the rights secured to British subjects and to British officials at the trade marts by the Convention of 1906.

It must be within the knowledge of the Chinese Government that we have waived a point in giving our consent to the payment of the indemnity direct instead of through Thibet, and unless they in their turn give proof of their desire for an amicable settlement by instructing their Agents in Thibet to adopt reasonable behaviour, the whole question of our dealings with Thibet will be affected.

[43574] No. 110.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 29.)

Sir, *India Office, December* 28, 1906.

IN continuation of Sir A. Godley's letter of the 13th instant, with reference to the date of the opening of the trade marts in Thibet, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram from the Government of India relative to action taken at Gyantse by Mr. Chang in the matter.*

In this connection I am to refer to the telegram to His Majesty's Minister at Peking of the 28th instant, and to suggest, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that Sir J. Jordan should be instructed to call the attention of the Chinese Government to the embarrassments which may result from the course which Mr. Chang is pursuing.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

[43581] No. 111.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 252.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Peking, December* 29, 1906.

PLEASE see telegram addressed on the 22nd instant to Secretary of State for India by Government of India.

I again received assurance from Wai-wu Pu yesterday that there is no intention on part of Chinese Government of allowing Dalai Lama to return to Thibet. The Board added that in case Chinese Government decided to grant such permission, they would inform me beforehand.

Kindly repeat above to Government of India.

* Inclosure in No. 108.

[43841] No. 112.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 31.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated 16th December, relative to the Thibetan indemnity.

India Office, December 31, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, December* 16, 1906.

I SHOULD be glad to receive your views by telegraph as to a desire expressed by the Chinese Government to pay instalment of Thibetan indemnity, due 1st January, 1907, by telegraphic transfer from Shanghae, and inquiry they have made as to how they should do this. There will presumably be no objection on the part of Government of India to Chinese Government making the payment in the manner that may be most convenient to themselves.

[43574] No. 113.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 228.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 31, 1906.

DATE of opening of trade marts in Thibet. See telegram from Government of India of the 27th instant.

You should call the attention of the Chinese Government to the action of Chang in altering the date on which the trade marts are to be opened. His Majesty's Government are prepared to adhere to the date of the 1st January, 1905, as the correct one, but if it is altered as declared by Chang, we should be entitled to a prolongation of our occupation of the Chumbi Valley.

You should further point out to the Chinese Government that embarrassments, as inconvenient to others as they are to us, may result from the independent action which is being pursued by Chang.

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Further Correspondence Respecting the Affairs of Thibet Part VIII July to December 1906. July-December, 1906. MS Political and Secret Department Records: Series 20: Political and Secret Department Library (1757-1952): Foreign Office Prints (1843-1937) IOR/L/PS/20/FO85/3. British Library. China and the Modern World, link.gale.com/apps/doc/NRWOTY795128701/CFER?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-CFER&xid=e4322a0f&pg=1. Accessed 21 Apr. 2022.